

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

On September 17th, at the Shanghai General Hospital, RUDOLF Goos, aged 25 years.

DEATHS.

On September 17th, at the Shanghai General Hospital, RUDOLF Goos, aged 25 years.

On 10th September 1908, at Kobe, after a short illness, HERMANN FRIEDRICH MEYERINK of Altona. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail of the 26th Aug. arrived per s.s. *Zienten* on the 24th instant.

The French Mail of the 28th August arrived per s.s. *Caledonien* to-day, the 28th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

General Pole-Carew and Mrs. Carew are at present touring Japan.

The Chinese Government have protested to the British Minister against Sun Yat Sen, the leader of the Anti-dynastic movement being permitted to remain at Singapore.

The Chief Eunuch, Ts'ni An, has been perpetually banished from the Palace.

A Harbin message to Japan papers states that the Harbin Flour Milling Syndicate has obtained a charter from the Russian Minister of Finance, and that work will begin on the 1st proximo.

There has been a very serious outbreak of bubonic plague at Tongshan, the *China Times* says. The first reports were that it was cholera, but its now fully established that it is a visitation of genuine bubonic plague.

Mr. W. Baker, eldest son of the Inspector Baker of the Hongkong Police, died at Macao on Saturday on board the steamer "Hoisang" of which he was chief engineer. He was buried at Macao. Deceased was about 26 years of age.

The death took place on September 9 at the Yokohama General Hospital, of Mr. Walter Tucker, who had been a resident of Japan for eighteen years, during which time he was continuously associated with the firm of Messrs. A. S. Rosenthal & Co.

Nine mammoth target rafts have been launched from the ordnance dock, navy yard, at Cavite. The largest of these rafts is 70 x 110 feet and the lot cost about \$30,000.00. These rafts are to be used by the American battleship fleet in their target practice beginning about November 1st.

The death has occurred at the Roman Catholic hospital Hankow, under very distressing and painful circumstances of Mr. C. M. G. Wulff, a Danish subject formerly an officer in the employ of the China Merchants S.N. Co. The deceased was bitten by a dog in the palm of the hand some two months ago, but failed to undergo any treatment. Hydrophobia recently manifested itself and he was removed to the hospital in a raving condition. Death followed the next day. The deceased, who was 37 years of age, leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

From the report of the Commissioner of Weihaiwei it appears that in 1907 there was an increase in the revenue but a much larger increase in the expenditure, chiefly due to the cost of stores taken over from the military authorities on the disbandment of the Chinese Regiment having been defrayed in that year. The grant-in-aid from Imperial funds needed in 1907 was £110,000. In 1906-7 it was £4,500; and in 1905-6 £3,000. The Commissioner states that there were no signs of any general increase of trade during the year, and so long as present circumstances exist commercial development of the territory is not possible.

Ten Chinese gentlemen severed their queues at the Sirkum Rubber Estate, Malacca, a fortnight ago. The ceremony was most interesting. Accompanied by several of their friends, the party journeyed from the town to the estate in motor-cars, and the "operation" was performed by Mr. Tan Wi Yan, himself queueless, a grandson of the founder of Tan Tock Seng's Hospital, Singapore. The scissors used had been purchased specially for the occasion, and they were decorated by a piece of red ribbon in honour of the event. The actual cutting of the queue did not end the ceremony; the celebrations were to extend over three days.

The Japanese Government has decided to appropriate ¥180,000 towards the expenses in connection with the reception of the American Squadron. The money will be paid to the Navy Department, which will apportion a part of the amount to the Tokyo-fu and Kanagawa-ken governments, in aid of the reception fund.

Dr. Bushell, C.M.G., formerly physician to H.B.M. Legation in Peking, whose death is announced by our London correspondent, was a recognised authority on Chinese art. His recreations are mentioned in "Who's Who" as being "pursuit of Chinese curios, coins, books, and antiquities; whist." Dr. Bushell was a member of the Councils of the Royal Asiatic and Royal Numismatic Societies. He has published a book on Oriental Ceramic Art, and is the author of a Handbook on the Chinese Art Collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum London. Numerous papers by him on porcelain, numismatics, geographical and archaeological subjects connected with the Far East are to be found in the transactions of the various learned societies.

Mr. Marnham, formerly of Hongkong, and now acting as Editor of a Korean vernacular paper, had an epileptic fit in the Japanese Court at Seoul, and had to be taken to hospital on a stretcher. Mr. Marnham was attending the trial of a Korean, connected with the paper, who is charged by the Japanese authorities, with embezzling subscriptions raised by the paper for the redemption of the loans the nation had obtained from Japan. Mr. E. T. Bethell was examined as a witness. Mr. Bethell said that over 60,000 yen of the National Debt Redemption Fund were originally deposited in the Collbran Bank, that afterwards the sum of 30,000 yen was transferred to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank; and the Mining Company's shares were purchased with 25,000 yen; that the remaining 5,000 yen and also over 2,000 yen, which is part of the remainder in the Collbran Bank, were lent to M. Martin, a French merchant. He stated that these were all legitimate transactions. Yang Kitak, the accused, asserted that he was not in any way responsible for these transactions.

Natural gas, throwing mud and water to a height of 75 to 100 feet, has been struck in San Jacinto, Pangasinan, says the *Manila Cablenews*. The phenomenon was met with in drilling an artesian well for the municipality. The pounder had pierced 58 feet of the earth's surface when, suddenly and without warning, the deposit of gas was struck, and the workmen, taken by surprise, ran for their lives. For over an hour the mud and water was thrown into the air in a steady stream. When the novelty wore off one of the large crowd of Filipino sightseers struck a match to light a cigarette. The gas at once caught fire and for another two hours the flames shot into the heavens and the wondering natives returned to witness the sight. The ability of the American well driller to draw fire from the earth's centre was much commented upon by the superstitious natives, but their wonderment increased a hundred fold when they saw him smother the flames with a wet sack. The deposit has since been drilled through and the escaping gas has ceased to bother operations. This is the first time natural gas has been encountered in the Philippines in well digging.

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT.

(Daily Press, September 19th.)

The action of the French Vice-Consul at Canton in releasing a number of alleged pirates arrested by Chinese officers on the *Paul Beau*, under the circumstances reported by our Canton Correspondent yesterday, is, we think, greatly to be deplored, for several reasons, and not unnaturally the affair has evoked much indignation not only among the Chinese officials of Canton but among people of all nationalities who are interested in the efforts which are being made to suppress piracy in the Canton Delta. Briefly the circumstances as reported by our correspondent were that the Canton authorities received telegraphic information from Hongkong that a gang of pirates was proceeding to Canton by the *Paul Beau*. Instructions were accordingly given to the superintendent of the Shameen Guard to have the alleged pirates arrested. The captain who was ordered to effect the arrests interviewed the French Consul who gave him a letter addressed to the captain of the *Paul Beau*. When the vessel arrived, the Shameen braves boarded the vessel and arrested seven or eight alleged pirates who were travelling as passengers. It was not until after the arrests had been effected that the Captain of the steamer read the Consul's letter and he then learnt that the Consul's instructions were not to permit the Chinese officer and his soldiers to arrest the pirates on board the steamer, but they could arrest them as soon as they got into sampans to go ashore. The Captain of the steamer immediately informed the Chinese officer of the contents of the Consul's letter and refused to permit him to take the prisoners away. At the same time he wrote a letter informing the Consul as to what had already occurred. The Vice-Consul went on board the *Paul Beau* and the Chinese officer and his braves had to leave the vessel at once, and he ordered the prisoners to be released. Some of the pirates, it is stated, returned to Hongkong by the same vessel, while others escaped ashore.

We can quite understand the disappointment and indignation of the Chinese officials. For years the Foreign Powers have been complaining of the inability of the Chinese Government to protect commerce from piracy in the Canton Delta, and as a consequence of this ineptitude a flotilla of British gunboats patrolled the waters last year for two months, until the Chinese had organised a proper patrol of their own. It is admitted that the Chinese authorities have since been exerting themselves to suppress piracy as they have never exerted themselves before, and it must be grievously disappointing to them to learn of the escape of a reputed gang of pirates through the active help of a French Consular official. The Chinese authorities had clearly recognised their dependance on the help of the French Consulate in the matter, and might reasonably have expected a ready disposition to co-operate. From the legal point of view, the Consul was well within his rights in declining to allow the men to be arrested on a French ship, especially as the authorities were admittedly acting only on telegraphic information, which might conceivably have turned out to be misleading. But when the Captain of the Shameen guard went to see the Consul, he should have been given to clearly understand the limits of the Consul's willingness to co-operate. Instead, he was allowed to leave the Consulate under the impression that he had the necessary authority to make the arrest on the ship, and that being so, the Consul must share the responsibility for the subsequent misunderstanding.

One other point is to be noted as it indicates how a satisfactory way out of the difficulty might have been found. In the interval which elapsed after the Captain had read the Consul's letter until the arrival of the Vice-Consul himself, the men must be considered to have been in the custody of the Captain, and it is much to be regretted that the Consul did not pardon the misunderstanding on the part of the Shameen police officer, and co-operate with him to the extent of having the alleged desperados conducted off the ship and released where the police could have re-arrested them entirely on their own responsibility. Or, relying on the *bona fides* of the Chinese authorities, and having in mind the history of the effort to suppress piracy, the Consul might have accepted responsibility for the arrests, and, by being represented at the trial of the men, assured himself that his assistance had not been abused. We may assume that the information which reached the Chinese authorities came from one of the detective officers who are constantly on the trail of these brigands. Notwithstanding all the efforts which are being made by the Chinese authorities to suppress piracy afloat, and brigandage and kidnapping ashore, the authorities are aware that these atrocities are still of daily occurrence in the vicinity of Canton, and it is, we repeat, much to be regretted that through the action of a foreign Consular gang who had been tracked has been given another opportunity of resuming their nefarious occupation of preying in the worst possible form on Society. Clearly no intentional violation of foreign jurisdiction was committed, and in the circumstances the Consul might well have "stretched a point" in the interests of law and order and the benefit of foreigners and Chinese alike.

CHINA FOR THE CHINESE.

(Daily Press, 21st September.)

A Chinese student contributes to one of the English magazines an article on the political parties in China in which he incidentally explains the meaning of the catchword "China for the Chinese" as signifying merely that the Chinese people will maintain their national rights and interests against anyone, from within or without, who attempts to endanger them, and not as that they are in any way anti-foreign. It will be allowed that "China for the Chinese" is a perfectly legitimate patriotic sentiment, but it had its genesis in jealousy and hatred of the foreigner, and we fear that there is very little evidence to show that it is not still the predominating motive in the minds of those who make most use of the shibboleth. Can this cry, indeed, be anything else than essentially anti-foreign in the present state of China? If China means to bring herself into line with the advanced nations of the world she needs to avail herself extensively of foreign help and guidance, of foreign capital, foreign skill and energy, and foreign resourcefulness. The sentiment of "China for the Chinese" is not new. History abounds with manifestations of it from the beginning of foreign intercourse with China. It has been manifested much more strikingly than it is to-day. But "China for the Chinese" meant then and would still mean nothing but stagnation and retrogression. It is a more euphonious cry than the "Out with the Fankwei" of fifty years ago, but the motive underlying it all seems the same. Evidence is wanting that the cry of "China for the Chinese" is not in its nature and purpose essentially anti-foreign. There

is undeniably a wide-spread suspicion of the foreigner and all his ways, but it is less in evidence among those who are in closest touch with the foreigners at the treaty ports, than it is among those who know least about them. In so far as the cry of "China for the Chinese" leads to exclusiveness, to an antipathy towards the foreigner and all his works, and to the retardation of national progress it is not a cry which will lead to the benefit of China. In the railway and mining laws of China this spirit of exclusiveness is already too much in evidence. China can abundantly secure her national rights and interests without hampering the development of the resources of the country by placing absurd restrictions upon the employment of foreign skill and enterprise. It is indeed fortunate for China that the Rights Recovery Party, though noisy, is yet a comparatively small party in the State. We may, however, confidently reckon on its growth, and we only hope that as appreciation of the nation's need of outside help becomes keener their cry of "China for the Chinese" will be free from any manifestation of antipathy to the foreigner, and be used rather for the encouragement of a healthy spirit of emulation in progressive enterprise. At present "China for the Chinese" may have various interpretations. To some it bears the interpretation of Chinese against the Manchus; to others Chinese against the European; and to the few perhaps it means a desire to see China by her own efforts taking rank with the advanced nations of the world. But there seems to be yet lacking in the State a party which does not see in the investment of foreign capital and the employment of foreign skill and energy a menace to national rights and interests.

CHINA AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

(Daily Press, September 22nd.)

It would certainly appear somewhat unfortunate that at the time when China is generally credited with considering seriously the desirability of introducing representative government in some form, the unfavourable side of that system has become markedly apparent in more directions than one. The state of matters in the British Parliament, where measures which are unquestionably not in accordance with the views of the nation at large have been forced through simply because the Liberal Government has so large a majority at its back, and in some instances, as for example the Old Age Pensions Bill, against the opinion of those undoubtedly best qualified to judge, is certainly not encouraging, and leads to the suggestion that there may be a limit to the principle that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom. This proverb is no doubt true if the counsellors are all men qualified to judge, and uninfluenced by personal considerations. But, where these two essential elements are wanting, government by mere numbers is apt to be as faulty as government by any single individual. Emerson long ago pointed out that Democracy carried to an extreme was in reality only Autocracy in another form; and of late years, there has certainly been much, not only in Great Britain but in other countries to prove the truth of this view, much as it was doubted at the time when it was pronounced. There is undoubtedly a danger that strong and well organised combination among the masses may become as oppressive as high handed action on the part of the higher classes; and it cannot be denied that in the present day

this danger has become markedly apparent. The labour classes and to some extent the Socialists, have established a position such as gives them so great a power both at elections and in Parliament that any given administration is forced to accede to measures which they advocate though they may have very grave doubts as to their expediency, and even in some instances where they may be conscious of their dangerous tendency. "Measures not men" used to be the old familiar cry; but now this has to be changed into "measures not party"—to have its old significance; and the difficulty of obtaining a really representative vote upon any matter that is brought before Parliament is almost insuperable, when nine members out of ten, if not ninety-nine out of a hundred, are prepared to vote blindly with their party—and the chief object of the Leaders is to keep their party in power—not to pass measures which are really to benefit the nation at large.

The necessity for due representation of all classes of the people is now so well established, and so thoroughly accepted as the only principle upon which Government can be properly conducted, that, even with such drawbacks as those which from time to time become apparent, hardly any one can be found in the present day who doubts the advantages of constitutional institutions. With those who are alive to the defects of the system in certain directions, the hope is entertained that improved education among the masses will counteract the evils, and will, in the course of time make the working classes as little disposed to pass measures of a detrimental character to the country generally as any other class; and it cannot be denied that there are apparently good grounds for this belief and for the hope that the better informed of the working classes will in course of time, become as little disposed to pass hasty and ill-considered measures as the middle classes, in whose hands the power has hitherto mainly rested, have always shown themselves to be. This however must be a work of time, and in the interval there can be no gainsaying that there are many difficulties to be faced and overcome, and that the present state of affairs as regards representative institutions is one which may give rise to well founded anxiety even among the most liberal minded. This is of course likely to be much more the case among people like the Chinese, to whom the ideal of any organised representation of the people at large is new, especially as they have not to look very far to see an illustration of some of the dangers that have to be faced in applying such a system to a nation who have been for ages governed under an autocratic system. In Japan, however much may have been gained by the introduction of constitutional government, complaints are made in well informed directions of the same defects which have become apparent in Europe. The old respect for authority and the force of family influence on character have largely diminished, while a tendency to strikes and to other forms of resistance and insubordination has, according to all recent accounts, become increasingly manifest. Statesmen in Japan are, in fact, troubled by many of the same problems, from over demands on the part of the masses, as have caused difficulty elsewhere. That they will be able to deal with them there seems every reason to believe, but the fact of these difficulties arising both in Japan and in Europe is not likely to be overlooked by the opponents of reform in China, in whose hands it is to be feared it will be made a strong argument in a reactionary direction.

THE RACIAL PROBLEM.

(Daily Press, 23rd September.)

ONE of those subjects that come up for discussion every now and then is the racial problem. The Anglican clergy recently had it under consideration and on Sunday last the Venerable Archdeacon BANISTER, preaching at St. John's Cathedral, founded his sermon to a large congregation on the same theme. Ordinarily the sermon might pass without special notice were it not for the suggestion which he made that the East and the West should have a meeting place in Hongkong where they could discuss each other's problems and learn from one another. Few can take exception to the sentiment. It is beautiful: it is laudable. But is it practicable? In considering the question we have to be careful to limit ourselves to the meaning which the preacher had in view when he enunciated this proposal. First of all we may assume that he did not suggest a mingling of the races, intermarriage between East and West, and it is apparent then that his suggestion was for a rapprochement on a social and intellectual basis. That, we think, ought not to be beyond the bounds of possibility. The racial differences, due to different environment, will doubtless persist, but it does not follow that the Occidentals and the Orientals—notwithstanding the varying climatic influences—may not ultimately be imbued with the same ideals and be found working for the same ends—the enlightenment of all and the greatest good of all. Differences need not imply estrangement and strife. Differences should only mean distinctions, and that being so it should be comparatively easy to bridge the dividing line and bring the various races together. As to the suggestion itself, the formation of an organisation for the discussion of the problems of the East and the West by representatives of each, it is difficult to prophesy as to its prospects of inauguration. The man and the opportunity may both arise in the near future, but there can be little doubt that such an organisation would result in good—provided, of course, the religious element did not become too obtrusive. When the different peoples of the world are brought together, when they begin to understand one another, then old-time barriers will be removed and something will be achieved in the direction of the "Parliament of man and the federation of the world" about which the poet was inspired to sing. The highest culture really knows no colour nor racial distinctions, no white nor black, no brown nor yellow. As the backward races become more enlightened and the civilised races more sympathetic there will be a greater communion between both. We need no other example than that of Japan. There a people have forsaken their primitive ideas in favour of western knowledge. They have stepped into the front rank of the Powers in the world. Their colour did not prevent their being allied to Great Britain. Therefore it seems very clear that as the various races seek the highest knowledge, the most satisfactory philosophy, and the most useful religion—using the word in its broadest sense—that unity of men which is the ideal of so many of our best thinkers will be attained on an intellectual basis, a basis the most firm of all, and on no other.

Mr. H. Cockburn, H. M. Consul-General at Seoul has left for England, via Siberia. Mr. Lay, H. M. Consul at Chemulpo, will act as Consul-General at Seoul during Mr. Cockburn's absence.

THE CANTON AFFAIR.

(Daily Press, September 23rd.)

THE release of the alleged pirates whom the Chinese authorities sought to arrest on the French steamer "Paul Beau" last week has been made the subject of a complaint by the Viceroy to the Government at Peking. Communications which have reached us since our comments on the affair appeared correct in certain important details the information first published, and in justice to the French Consul we willingly give to the corrected version the same publicity as was given to the original report. Had the Viceroy communicated with the French Consul his wish to have the pirates arrested, we are informed that the Chief of the French police would have been directed to arrest the men and keep them on the Shamoen guardboat pending receipt of full particulars of the charges, as is usually done in such cases. Instead, the Colonel of the Shamoen guard sent a runner to the Consulate with his card to ask permission to make the arrest. The Consul not only did not give this man any letter to deliver to the Captain of the steamer, but distinctly explained to him that he must not make any arrests on board, though he could place a guard around the ship and arrest the men as they came off. Another communication attributes the whole trouble to some objection entertained by certain Consuls to the new Superintendent of the Shamoen Guard. We are informed that at least two Consulates, including the French, have refused "to receive" the new commandant of the guard. That probably explains why a subordinate officer—described in one account as a captain, and in another as a runner—was sent to the Consulate on an errand of such importance.

IS HONGKONG APATHETIC?

(Daily Press, September 24th.)

WE recently reproduced from the *Singapore Free Press* an article (anent the order to close the opium divans) in which it was urged that Hongkong should provide itself with a "Hongkong Association" to deal exclusively with its own interests as a Crown Colony and to secure that these shall be directly represented to the Colonial Office when occasion arises. Our contemporary is apparently somewhat distressed to find that the Press of the Colony has given the idea no sign of support. "As we are rowing in the same boat with Hongkong," it says, "it will be a great advantage to us to hear that an Eastern Crown Colony, threatened by the same danger as ourselves, though in a less degree, will help to contribute to its own safety by ceasing to be a passenger and by taking an oar itself." The metaphor is a little puzzling. If Singapore is rowing with Hongkong, how can it be said in the same breath that the latter is merely a skulking passenger? We suppose that our contemporary means to suggest that it has been left to the Straits Association to make a commotion about the ill-considered instruction sent by the Imperial Government to the Crown Colonies with regard to the closing of the opium divans, and that Hongkong stands to gain by the activities of that Association and not by any effort it is making on its own behalf. There is something about this representation of the situation that irresistibly reminds us of the ancient fable of the fly sitting on the axle-tree of a chariot wheel crying "Lo! what a dust do I make!" The Straits Association may be doing more than the fly on the axle-tree,

but we can assure our contemporary that the protest of this community has been voiced quite as effectively as the protest of the Straits Settlements. The press telegrams announcing that the Secretary of State for the Colonies had telegraphed peremptory instructions sufficed to stir the community and emphatic protests were made in the Legislative Council and by the General Chamber of Commerce. Hongkong's grievance has also been ventilated in the House of Commons. We do not see that a Hongkong Association such as our contemporary suggests could have done more. We hope to learn from the Governor's speech on the Estimates to-day that the protests of the community have had some influence on the policy of the Imperial Government.

The resolution of the Chamber of Commerce strongly protested against any arbitrary orders from the Imperial Government to close immediately the Opium divans in Hongkong, and, while expressing entire sympathy with all reasonable *bona fide* efforts for the mitigation of the abuse of opium, the resolution expressed the opinion that any action having for its object the immediate suppression of the sale and use of opium in Hongkong would have serious effects on the economic conditions here and lead to disastrous results to the Colony's prosperity unless similar action is enforced in China. The Hongkong Government was therefore requested to inform the Imperial Government that any hasty and ill-considered action taken in this matter to the detriment of the interests of the Colony would be generally resented, but that, on the other hand, a policy of gradual reduction similar in its action to the Imperial Government's agreement with India would be loyally supported.

We may add that besides the Legislative Council and the General Chamber of Commerce, the Colony has in the China Association a third mouthpiece. "What can the China Association know or care about the Crown Colony woes of Hongkong?" asked our contemporary in its first article on the subject. A better acquaintance with the annual reports of the China Association would have saved our contemporary from doing this very useful body the injustice of declaring that it neither knew nor cared anything about "the Crown Colony woes of Hongkong." As the Hongkong Branch is evidently the most active unit in the organisation of the China Association, and as the London Committee embraces members who are thoroughly informed on Hongkong politics, the China Association appears to us as competent as any other Association can conceivably be to concern itself with "the Crown Colony woes of Hongkong." At least, it is quite within the province of the Association to protest against the threatened action of the Government now referred to. Whether the Association has done anything in the matter is unknown to the general public. The Committee call no extraordinary general meetings of its members, nor do they communicate to the Press their resolutions, as is done by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. Does the Straits Association differ very greatly from the China Association in that respect? Except at the annual gathering we seem to hear no more of the Straits Association than, as a rule, we hear of the China Association, and we suspect that if the Hongkong Association suggested by our contemporary were formed we should be hearing just as little. In the Eastern communities there is an inveterate tendency to leave everything to the Committees.

HONGKONG'S MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

(Daily Press, September 26th.)

Not for many years has a Governor of Hongkong, been confronted with so much difficulty in framing the Colonial Budget as Sir FREDERICK LUGARD has obviously experienced in compiling the Budget for the coming year. Faced with a deficit of \$581,000 on the current year's working, the threatened extinction of the opium revenue, and the certainty of a great outcry against any proposal to increase taxation while the Colony is suffering, in common with most commercial centres of the world, from a depression in trade which has been exceptionally severe, His Excellency has had a task not to be envied. The community, which has looked forward to the presentation of the Budget this year with more than usual curiosity and certainly with more uneasiness than usual, is able to breathe freely again—for a time at least. We have, however, to remember that we are not yet out of the wood. The question as to whether the Colony is to be forced to suddenly deprive itself of a great part of the revenue which it has annually derived from the opium monopoly is still unsettled. The Estimates show no anticipated reduction in receipts on that account, so that if the Imperial Government decides to enforce the order telegraphed out on May 6th, and since held in abeyance, the loss of revenue which it entails will have to be met, His Excellency says, either out of the Colony's reserves or by special taxation.

A reduction of the amount of the Military Contribution has generally commended itself as the readiest as well as the fairest method of financial readjustment. The Governor discussed this suggestion in the course of his speech, and though he has not finally made up his mind on the subject, His Excellency is clearly of opinion that the contribution the Colony is required to make is not an unfair one. Sir FREDERICK contrasted the percentage paid by the British taxpayer at Home with the amount paid by the taxpayer here, the figures quoted showing that the Home taxpayer pays a percentage more than twice as large as we do. We are, however, inclined to question this conclusion. If our recollection serves us well, we believe the figures quoted by His Excellency as representing the percentage paid by the Home taxpayer for defence were given by the Prime Minister some weeks ago in the course of a speech. Do not these figures really represent only the percentage of Imperial revenue and leave local revenue entirely out of the reckoning? We believe they do. Here in Hongkong the contribution is levied on all revenue and we venture to think that if this were done in the United Kingdom the difference pointed out by His Excellency would entirely disappear; indeed we are inclined to think that the result would show that it is we who are paying the larger percentage. If that be so the Colony, on that ground alone, is justified in appealing for some modification. Another point in His Excellency's argument in defence of the Military Contribution may be noted. Sir FREDERICK expressed the opinion that the Imperial Government could not be accused of injustice if it said to us to-morrow: "You grumble at the cost of the defence forces and works provided. We will withdraw them and look after our docks and coaling stations ourselves and you can furnish your own defence." Now this supposes that a military force is maintained here solely for the protection of this Colony.

That is certainly not the case. The forces stationed in Hongkong are available for service at any other British settlement in the East for the defence of life and property. Yet the British community of Shanghai pays no military contribution, nor does the British community of Tientsin, though the latter have a British regiment quartered in their midst. The privilege of paying the military contribution is in the East a privilege exclusively attaching to residence in a Crown Colony. If our view is correct that, properly reckoned, this Colony is contributing for Defence a greater proportion of its revenue than is the case even with the United Kingdom itself, His Excellency might well seek some alleviation in this respect before resorting to special taxation to meet the deficit certain to arise if the Imperial Government carry out the policy they have announced with regard to opium.

For the rest, we think, all things considered, the Budget statement leaves very little room for criticism, and it only remains for us to congratulate His Excellency upon his able and comprehensive review of the work of the administration and to unite with him in trusting that low water mark has already been reached and that 1909 will prove to be a year of revival of trade and return of prosperity.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Another grievance to ventilate. A West Ender complains that the trams running in that direction do not always go as far as Kennedytown but that a large number stop at Whitty Street. Here passengers have to alight and those whose destination is Kennedytown have to wait there in the presence of undesirables, sometimes as long as twenty minutes before a tram comes along and enables them to resume the journey. My correspondent suggests that signal boards be placed on cars running west indicating whether the destination is Whitty Street or Kennedytown. It would save a lot of trouble and inconvenience to travellers and incidentally would conduce to better language.

Hongkong has always been fortunate in its amateur theatricals, and not a few dramatic societies have provided excellent after-dinner entertainment. The Kowloon Dock Dramatic Society, which saw the light last year for the first time, is still very much alive, and the success which attended the production of "Roy Roy" has encouraged the members to take up a more ambitious work in "The Silver King." It will be interesting to see how the Kowloon thespians acquit themselves in melodrama. I haven't heard what the other organisations are doing, but doubtless they will begin some study very soon.

A few days ago one of the evening papers in an interesting editorial practically called upon the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society to justify its existence. An annual ball, a Burns concert and some small eleemosynary relief to distressed Scots seemed to sum up its *raison d'être*, and not unnaturally the writer felt that something more was demanded from such an important organisation. He suggested that the Society would better exhibit the Caledonian clanishness by assisting those Scotsmen who were unfortunate enough to be out of work, notably engineers, who had perhaps found themselves out of employment through their own fault. No one, I think, will deny the rightness of such a course of action, and I hope the members of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society will at their annual meeting on Friday do something to accentuate the philanthropic nature of their organisation and to realise that a helping hand extended to their less fortunate countrymen will do more credit to "auld Scotland" than the possession of a big balance at the bank.

I am sorry to confess it! My admiration for the Sanitary Board has fallen. And I'll tell why. For weeks my slumbers have been disturbed by the midnight caterwaulings which come with unfailing regularity from the adjoining roofs, and having used up all the old boots and shoes in the house I decided that it would be cheaper to invest in an air gun. It would at the same time give me practice in shooting and I would thereby make myself a better citizen, because we know the country needs men who can shoot. Well, I had only had the gun a night or two when I was roused one early morning by the most ear-splitting noises and yells from the garden. "Cats again! Confound them!" Warily rising and picking up the gun I had just drawn a beautiful bead on a bit of fluff which I could just see in the moonlight when the voice of my wife came sharply from the comfortable bed I had just vacated. "What are you doing, my dear? Not shooting at cats, I hope?" "You bet your sweet life that's what I am trying to do. If I can pink this big brute down here I'll make him warble." "But," replied the partner of my joys and sorrows, "You mustn't do that any more." By this time she had risen and caught hold of the gun. "Cats are really our saviours. They protect us from plague." "Nonsense!" I returned. "Who told you that?" "It's in the paper to-day," she added. "I never saw it," I replied. "Perhaps," she suggested, "you don't read the Sanitary Board stuff." "No, I don't," I admitted with a growl. "Ah!" she exclaimed in triumph, "then you don't know that cats will keep away plague." I dropped the gun in amazement. Words failed me. Even if language had come I don't think it could have done justice to the occasion, and when my wife made some further remarks about the wisdom of the Sanitary Board I was ungallant enough to murmur a little word that rhymes with ham.

However I am quite prepared to admit that every cloud has its silver lining. If our cats are to be protected now they will probably provide us with some little amusement. The Chinese get a good deal of fun out of cricket fights, and some of our people at home know the pleasure of watching a cock fight, while others have a good time by taking a dog into a barn and spectating at a rat hunt. Possibly we can inaugurate a new sport in Hongkong with rats brought into a circle and at a given moment a prize-bred tabby is let loose among the rodents while the spectators on the outside of the ring can work up excitement in the contest by a pari-mutuel. I offer the idea for what it is worth. Let the Spanish bull fight be the model on which our miniature show is to be formed. The idea should not be neglected. It will provide entertainment for the masses and need not be regarded as competitive with the proposals of your correspondent who wants roof gardens and band performances.

Viceroy Tuan Fang at Nanking when asked recently to proceed to the Dragon Temple and pray for rain, refused to do so. He argued the matter with the petitioners, and as a glencher said "Foreigners do not pray for rain." On this an "Elder in Zion" preaches through the medium of a Shanghai paper to the unbelieving missionaries. The Viceroy, he says, has discovered that foreigners do not believe the religion they preach, and the "Elder in Zion" is greatly distressed. "Oh, Missionaries, Missionaries!" he exclaims, "His Excellency the Viceroy Tuan Fang is not mistaken. His ringing message 'the Foreigners do not pray for rain' shows what China thinks of you, of your faith and your religion. It shows how apostate the denominations are!" And this little homily by an "Elder in Zion" shows a sublime faith which is uncommon in these scientific times.

Apart from business depression, times are not likely to be dull in Shanghai while Judge Wilfay presides over the United States Court for China. Recently the Judge created a little sensation by debarring Mr. G. D. Musso, a local barrister, from the privilege of appearing in his Court, and I notice that Mr. Musso has lost no opportunity of attacking the Judge since. At the Mixed Court he went the extent of saying

that there was reasonable ground for suggesting that the Judge, the Attorney and the Clerk of the United States Court had conspired to suborn a witness. Yes, Judge Wilfay makes things interesting at Shanghai. The prosecution of the editor of the *China Gazette* for criminally libelling the Judge is the latest sensation.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

There were no cases of plague reported in the Colony last week, but three fatal cases of cholera.

Mr. C. Pemberton has been appointed Secretary of the China Fire Insurance Co. in succession to the late Mr. G. L. Tomlin.

The Victoria Recreation Club held their annual aquatic sports on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last. H. E. the Governor distributed the prizes and congratulated the Club on its flourishing condition.

Inspector R. Fenton, of the Hongkong Police, has just been confirmed in his appointment to that rank. For almost two years he has been acting inspector. On Sept. 24th at the Magistracy Mr. Kemp congratulated Inspector Fenton on his promotion.

The total quantity of water supplied during 1907 in Hongkong was 1,517,091,001 gallons filtered and 24,963,000 gallons unfiltered, making a grand total of 1,542,059,000 gallons or 188,992,000 gallons more than in 1906. The average consumption of filtered water per head per day with an estimated population of 205,110 was 20.3 gallons.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. J. P. Cottam of the firm of Cottam and Co. of Hongkong. Mr. Cottam arrived in the Far East in 1875 and after different ventures opened the business in Hongkong. Deceased, who left China some seven or eight years ago, leaves a widow and four children to mourn his loss.

At the Magistracy on Sept. 22 Mr. C. Mooney, secretary of the Hongkong Hotel, prosecuted a boy for unlawfully absenting himself from service. The defendant had obtained leave on the ground that he was sick and he made use of the opportunity to look for other employment. Mr. Wood imposed the exemplary punishment of a fine of \$15 with the option of 14 days' imprisonment.

On Thursday morning the Kowloon Dock Company launched the second of the West River patrol gunboats built to the order of the Provincial Government of Canton. A large company attended the interesting ceremony, and as the vessel took the water she was christened "Kiang Chi" by Mrs. Gresson. The usual complimentary speeches followed, the address of Admiral Li being interpreted by Mr. Fung Wa Chun.

The expected has happened. A Chinaman was found hawking cats the other night at Hung-hom and he explained to the magistrate before whom he was brought that he was not selling cats. Having heard that the Sanitary Board wished the Chinese to keep cats he was distributing a number of them. Mr. Kemp, however, refused to be impressed by this explanation and imposed a fine of \$4 or ten days.

On the 18th instant the premises of Messrs Skott and Company in Des Vœux Road were entered by a former bookkeeper by means of a duplicate key. He made away with the contents of the cash box amounting to \$2,308 and took several others articles of value. The police who had been searching for him discovered him as he was trying to board the "Charles Hardouin" for Canton. He had a quantity of dollar bills in his socks. He was brought before the Magistrate on Sept. 23rd and remanded for a week.

On the 22nd inst. the Chinese in Hongkong celebrated the anniversary of their great teacher Confucius. The day was observed as a holiday by the Chinese and decorations, in which the dragon flag was conspicuous, and illuminations have public expression to the regard in which the memory of the sage is held. The most noteworthy feature of the day's proceedings was the gathering in the Taiping Theatre under the presidency of Mr. Lau Chu Pak. The large assembly of almost 5,000 of the leading members of the community did homage to a portrait of Confucius, after which speeches expository of his teachings were delivered.

At the annual meeting of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society the Hon. Mr. W. Chatham was elected president, Mr. J. R. M. Smith vice president, Mr. David Wood secretary, and Mr. A. S. Fraser, treasurer. Messrs W. Armstrong, R. Mitchell, Murray Stewart, W. Jack and C. H. Ross were appointed members of committee. It was decided to celebrate St. Andrew's Day with the usual ball.

A singular accident was reported to the Wanchai police on Sunday. An engine driver in the employ of the Sugar Refinery, who lives at Tai Hang, went to wind up his eight day clock on Sunday. To do so he had to stand on a stool. The stool turned under him and in a vain effort to save himself he clutched at the door of the clock, pulling it down upon him. The glass pierced the fleshy part of his arm and he bled to death before medical assistance could reach him.

The following gentlemen have consented to lecture at the Y.M.C.A. rooms during the coming season:—Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Dr. J. C. Thomson, Dr. R. A. Bellillo, Rev. T. W. Pearce, Mr. W. T. R. Preston, Dr. A. P. Wilder, Mr. Bellamy Brown, Rev. C. Bone, Mr. R. A. Lowry, Capt. F. A. Brown, Mr. S. Kingsbury, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Mr. S. T. Dunn and Mr. J. C. Joughin.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE PROSECUTIONS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

DEAR SIR,—With regard to the wholesale issue of prosecutions by the Building Authority for non-compliance of notices to execute certain repairs to property and which formed the subject of a resolution in the Legislative Council yesterday, I think it only fair to His Excellency the Governor, the public should be informed that on the state of affairs being brought to his notice His Excellency at once ordered the withdrawal of all the summonses.

Yours faithfully,

A. SHELTON HOOPER.

Hongkong, September 25th, 1908.

MACAO IN DARKNESS.

DEAR SIR,—A Visitor to Macao is quite right. Our Electric light has given out and nothing has been done about lighting the streets with Kerosene.

Our City Fathers are—well it would be more merciful not to say what they are.

All the streets AND narrow lanes pitch dark every night now for a week, and no signs of the Electric light starting again.

I know one thing, though, that never fails in this "city"—that is the unnecessarily noisy Church bells at 5 a.m. and all day long.

Knowing that your paper is widely read here you will oblige by inserting this.—Your truly,

X. X. X.

Macao, September 4th.

TYPHOONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Within the past week or ten days three typhoons appear to have passed over the Philippine Islands.

On Saturday the 19th inst. the city of Manila and the provinces to the North were threatened. The storm gathered East of the Visayas, and moved rapidly in a north-westerly direction, but owing to resistance it met with on approaching land, the cyclonic centre became deformed and it passed to the North of Manila without doing any damage of importance to the city.

Two more typhoons have since gathered in the neighbourhood of the Visayas, travelling in a similar direction. A report was current in Hongkong on Saturday that upwards of 10,000 lives had been lost in one of these storms, but the report lacks confirmation.

A telegram to the *Daily Press* states that no damage was suffered by Manila, but the Southern islands have suffered severely. The towns of Masbate and Romblon have been completely wrecked, and sad havoc has been wrought in the coconut and other plantations.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

September 17th.

THE RECENT FLOOD.

In order to obtain further funds for the relief of the people in the distressed districts I am informed that His Excellency Viceroy Chang has decided to issue a notification that on the 9th moon the following percentages will be deducted from the salaries of all Civil and Military Officials and Government Servants in the Kwong Tung Province and be placed in the relief fund, viz:—10 per cent to be deducted from those who are receiving salaries of \$50 and under per month, and 20 per cent from those receiving over \$50 per month.

OFFICIAL MATTERS.

The Minister of the Board of War at Peking has requested the Commissioner of Customs here to furnish the Board with full particulars of the Harbour Regulations applying to merchantmen and men-of-war of all nationalities and also the International Laws regarding navigation, collisions &c of these vessels on the high seas in times of peace and war—[That would be rather a big undertaking for the Commissioner—Ed.]

The Viceroy has received a dispatch from the Board of War requesting him to repair all the forts built in modern style and to pull down and rebuild all the old forts in the Kwangtung Province.

It is reported in the local Press that Prime Minister Chang Chi Tung has proposed a new law prohibiting the marriage of Chinese under 24 years of age.

MAGISTRATE AND MISSIONARY CONVERTS.

Ng Kai Wah, a Roman Catholic, recently instituted an action against Tang Cheuk Kwan at the Nam Hoi magistracy claiming for the recovery of money due to him by the Defendant for goods sold and delivered.

Ng Kai Wah, prior to filing his petition, requested a Catholic missionary to communicate with the magistrate explaining the facts of the case, mentioning that Ng is a Roman Catholic convert, and requesting the magistrate to recover the debt.

The Magistrate on receipt of Ng's petition replied as follows:—"Both the ancient and the present law says debts must be paid by all people. If Tang Cheuk Kwan purchased pearls from you and has not paid for them, you can institute an action against him in this magistracy for the recovery of the debt. This matter does not concern the missionaries. Why should you request a missionary to write to me on your behalf to recover the debt? This is a plain case in which you deliberately relied upon the support of the Church to press your claim. Is this how you conduct yourself? However, I will give instructions to the yamen runners to summon Tang Cheuk Wah to appear before this Court for trial, and will order him to pay the debt should judgment be given against him. You must in future bear in mind, in either Civil or Criminal actions, that it matters not at all whether litigants are Christians or non-Christians. Justice alone is the determining factor in all cases brought to Court.

"In this case you had the audacity to style yourself a Roman Catholic Convert. This is improper. It carries no weight in the matter and cannot influence the Court in any way whatever. My decision will be given on the merits of the case."

A DARING ROBBER.

A daring robbery took place at Lo Pai Hong in broad daylight yesterday. It appears that a plucky robber who dressed himself like a mandarin engaged a chair with four chair bearers and rode straight into a wealthy Chinaman's house in the above-named street at 11 a.m. on the pretext of paying an official call.

When he got into the house he paid the chair coolies and dismissed them. After they had left he bolted the main door of the house, terrorized the inmates of the place by brandishing two revolvers, drove them all into a back room and locked them up. He then ransacked the house and took away with him jewellery and other valuables worth about \$3,000.

September, 18th.

THE ARREST OF ALLEGED PIRATES ON THE "PAUL BEAU."

The local Press is full of articles concerning the recent affair on the s.s. "Paul Beau" when the new Colonel Lui Chan Hoi of the Shameen Guard, who was detailed to arrest half a dozen Chinese passengers alleged to be pirates, bungled things in such a manner that the suspects were allowed to escape.

The true version of the affair is as follows:—The Canton authorities were advised late on the 14th instant that half a dozen men alleged to be pirates had left Hongkong by the s.s. "Paul Beau." The same evening the Colonel of the Shameen Guard sent a messenger to the French Consulate with his card to inform the Consul that he intended to arrest six men on the "Paul Beau" the following morning.

The messenger was told that the arrest could not be made by the Chinese authorities on board, but that they could arrest them when they had left the ship. Instructions were sent by the Company's agent to the Captain of the vessel not to allow the arrest to be effected on board.

On the 15th instant when the "Paul Beau" steamed into the Harbour the Colonel of the Shameen Guard boarded her with a dozen soldiers in plain clothes and proceeded forthwith to arrest the men, having them put in irons. Meanwhile the Captain having received his orders went down to see that the arrest was not effected on board by Chinese officials. To his surprise he saw that the men were all tied up and bundled together in a sampan. He protested against the action of Colonel Lui and sent word to the Consulate. The Vice-Consul was soon on the spot and he caused the men to be released and put back on board. The soldiers were next ordered to leave the vessel, which they did after much hesitation, and not until they were told that they would be forcibly ejected if they did not elect to go of their own will. Meanwhile the alleged pirates made the most of their opportunity and while Lui and his posse of soldiers were deliberating as to what they would do next the alleged pirates made a dash for liberty and must have succeeded as they are still wanted.

The Chinese papers are publishing exaggerated accounts of the affair and insinuate that the police were assaulted on board. One paper has the courage however to strike the true note viz; That it is not to be wondered that such blunders are made so long as the management of foreign affairs is entrusted to men as ignorant and incompetent as those at present in office.

A REBEL CHIEF CAPTURED.

Kwok Yan Cheong, Taotai of Yam Chow and Lim Chow Prefecture, has cabled to Viceroy Chang that he has captured Tong Pat, one of the rebel chiefs who took part in the Yam Chow rebellion last year. The following is a statement made by Tong Pat at the trial:—

I am Tong Pat and a native of the Tai Luk village. My father was formerly a military officer in the Sui Yuen regiment. In the 7th moon last year Wong Shun Wo, Loeng Sui Ting and others came to Tai Luk and stayed at my house. They brought a considerable quantity of gold leaf with them and told me that General and Commander-in-Chief Sun Yat Sen was staying in Hanoi and had sent considerable quantities of fire arms and treasure to Yam Chow to start a rebellion; that secret arrangements had been made with the soldiers of Sam Na and Lin Shan cities to start a mutiny and co-operate with them on their arrival, and that my father had been made an officer of the rebel army in command of 250 men in Mi Tung.

On the following day Li Ki Shan and another man, both officers of the Ki Shan magistrates bodyguard, called at my house. They told me that negotiations had been completed with the soldiers of Fong Shing city and also with the Hang regiment of modern soldiers on the border of the Kwangsi Province to join us in the rising. On the 25th day of the 7th moon the rebel army in Tai Luk assembled and we marched to Mi Tung where we passed the night. On the following day my father (who was there) despatched me with 56 men to Fong Shing city with instructions that I should give

orders to the men to fire a volley into the air on our arrival at the last mentioned city. This was the signal arranged with the soldiers of the Fong Shing city to mutiny and join us. I carried out these instructions on our arrival and the Fong Shing soldiers joined us. We marched straight into the Magistrate's Yamen and arrested Magistrate Sung and his family, altogether about 20 people, and took them all to the Guardian Spirit Temple of the City and put them to death by shooting them. After that we took possession of the City. We left sufficient men to guard the City and we marched to Yam Chow intending to storm and capture it. But when we got to a place called Tung How we were advised by the rebels there not to attack Yam Chow, as news had arrived that the officials of Yam Chow had got wind that rebels were approaching the place and they were on their guard. By this time our army was several thousand strong. Orders were given to proceed and capture the Ling Shan City. We stormed the City for several days but unfortunately we were defeated and had to retreat. We made for Chung Chow in Kwangsi where we all dispersed and afterwards went back to Kwong On in Annam.

My father is still in Kwong On. I do not know where the other rebel chiefs have gone to. I came back from Annam quite recently and shortly after my arrival I was captured."

Taotai Kwok added that according to the above statement Tong Tat had practically confessed the crime and pleaded guilty to the charge. He requested the Viceroy's permission to behead Tong Fat on the spot as he is afraid that an attempt may be made to rescue him.

A BURNED VILLAGE.

Recently a big clan fight took place between the clansmen of the Sui Kong and Tong Kai villages outside the North Gate of Canton City. The Sui Kong Villagers killed and wounded many people of the Tong Kai village. Tong Kai being a smaller village had fewer fighting units and consequently lost the battle. The Tong Kai villagers in order to take revenge forcibly carried away three Sui Kong villagers who were employed on the trunk line of the Canton Railway Company to their village and murdered them. A petition was sent to the Viceroy by the railway officials stating that the Tong Kai villagers had murdered the Sui Kong employees of the Company. The consequence is that an order to arrest the murderers was issued and as the Tong Kai villagers have disappeared, the village being deserted. The Viceroy has ordered all the houses, moveable properties, and fields to be seized. The Tong village has a population of about 500 men.

September 24th.

RECEPTION OF THE UNITED STATES FLEET AT AMOY.

Many high officials specially deputed by the Central Government to Amoy for the reception of the United States Fleet arrived here a few days ago. They have been very busy in the City making purchases of valuable articles for presentation to the officers of the United States Fleet. It is said that they have given special orders to many firms for large quantities of silk embroideries and black-wood furniture of unique designs. Two of the best Cantonese theatrical troops have been engaged to give performances in Amoy when the Fleet arrives. A contract has been signed with a large scaffolding firm here to erect all the sheds in Amoy for theatrical performances and reception purposes. The officials say that Prince Chan will be deputed by the Throne as special minister on the occasion.

RECOMMENDED FOR HIGH RANK.

The local gentry have petitioned Viceroy Chang requesting him to memorialize the Throne to confer a brevet title of the highest rank upon Mr. So Sing Kue on account of the generous donations made by him towards the recent Flood Fund.

The petitioners state that Mr. So has donated altogether 150,000 taels in cash, besides forwarding large quantities of rice to the distressed districts valued at over 50,000 taels, and in supporting the request they recall that formerly Chan Taotai who subscribed the munificent sum of 100,000 taels towards the

Relief Fund up North had conferred upon him a brevet rank of the first degree. His Excellency replied that he would cause inquiries to be made at once and find out the exact amount donated by Mr. So and would memorialise the Throne accordingly.

MINTING OF COPPER CENTS RESUMED.

In my correspondence of the 21st of July, I reported that an Imperial Edict was issued ordering the Provincial Mint here to cease striking copper cents for three months owing to the market being inundated with them. Recently there has been a large demand for copper coins and a few days ago the Bureau of Local Affairs instructed the Directors of the Mint to commence minting these coins again. The Bureau has also cabled to all the Prefectures and Districts of the Kwangtung Province requesting the officials to notify the merchants and the people to proceed to Canton and place their orders for these coins.

LARGE QUANTITY OF GUNPOWDER SEIZED.

The Salt Monopolist of the Heung Shan District recently made a seizure of a large shipment of illicit salt. On discharging the salt from the junk, to his surprise and amazement he discovered thirty-two kegs of gunpowder hidden under the vessel. The matter has been reported to the Viceroy who has ordered the gunpowder to be immediately sent to Canton. The smugglers who are now in the custody of the monopolist will be beheaded.

PROPOSED PIECE GOODS AND DYEING FACTORY.

It is reported that on the 20th instant a meeting of the piece goods merchants was held in Fatsan for the purpose of considering a proposal to establish a large Piece Goods and Dyeing Factory in that town. The Chairman, Mr. Woo, proposed to raise a capital of \$2,000,000 in shares. Half of that amount has already been guaranteed by the promoters of the concern. The name of the Company is "Hing Ah," which means "forcing China's prosperity."

A DEPUTY PUNISHED FOR SQUEEZING.

Recently Deputy Mo Cheung was despatched by the Poon Yu Magistrate to proceed up country to collect field taxes from the different villages of the Poon Yu district. It appears that he demanded travelling expenses and presents from all the villages he visited. The villagers were very much annoyed over it and reported the matter to the Viceroy, who ordered the Kwong Chan Prefect to have Deputy Mo immediately cashiered, to find out the total amount of "squeeze" he made, also the value of the presents received by him, to total these two items, impose a fine of three times the amount and banish him from the Kwong Sung Province after he has paid up the fine.

NEW FOREIGN DEPUTY.

Mr. Yim Pak Yuk, the Viceroy's chief Foreign Secretary, has left Peking and is expected to arrive here shortly. He comes here to relieve Taotai Wen Tsung Yao who will proceed to Tibet next week to take up his new appointment as Minister.

THE "PAUL BEAU" AFFAIR—A THREATENED BOYCOTT.

The "Kwok Sze I'o" has published an article on the above subject stating that the French Consul on receipt of information that the Cantonese people might take the case up and convene meetings to discuss the matter, has written a letter to the Viceroy requesting him to prohibit the merchants and the people from holding mass meetings to discuss the affair. The paper remarks that the Consul's letter purports to show that he is afraid that the Cantonese might boycott French commerce.

The Viceroy, on receipt of the Consul's letter, immediately gave instructions to the Kwong Chan Prefect to issue a notification prohibiting the merchants and the people from holding mass meetings to discuss the matter.

The paper also criticised the case saying that the procedure adopted by Colonel Lui in the arrest of the alleged pirates on the "Paul Beau" was simply a repetition of what has been done by his predecessor and it is contended that the officers were not wrong, especially as the arrest was made after they obtained permission from the Captain of the steamer. Further, it is pointed out that after the pirates were put into the small boat they were actually in Chinese waters and therefore were under the jurisdiction of the Chinese authorities. The Vice-Consul in

forcibly causing them to be released, was going beyond the limits of his power.

LUK LAN CHING AGAIN.

Sometime ago the notorious Pirate Chief, Luk Lan Ching, kidnapped four village elders of the Ko-Pa village which is renowned for its wealth.

Hon Chi To, son of one of the victims, went personally to Luk Lan Ching and entreated Luk to take him as a prisoner in place of his father on the plea of his old age and poor health. Luk complied with the request, releasing old Hon Yat Wah and keeping his son as a prisoner. Before releasing old Hon the pirate chief told him that if he failed to bring \$20,000 to redeem his son on a certain day he would kill the boy. As the ransom was a rather large sum the old man kept on negotiating with Luk in the hope of getting a reduction. But Luk was adamant and on the due date he took Hon Chi To to the Railway Terminus at Samahin and fired six bullets into the poor fellow. Luk then wrote out a notice saying that he had killed Hon Chi To on account of his father failing to keep his promise.

Hon Yat Wah has reported the matter to the Viceroy who has given instructions to the military authorities that they must not fail to arrest Luk Lan Ching at any cost and as soon as possible.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

September, 20th.

AN ICE FACTORY.

Soon Macao will be blest with an Ice works. The factory is now nearing completion, and will be in full working order by next summer.

NEWS FOR SPORTSMEN.

The abundance of snipe and other game about our neighbourhood just now is attracting the attention of sportsmen, and those who have grasped the opportunity to have a day's shooting have returned to the city well satisfied with their luck.

A DEPUTATION TO THE GOVERNOR.

The Pork dealers of the Colony have waited upon His Excellency Senhor Roccas to complain of the treatment meted out to them by officers of the Leal Senado. It is alleged that some of the municipal police attempted to "squeeze" the dealers, but being unsuccessful got even with them in another way. Removing a pig from one of the stalls, they kept it for three days and then replaced it. Next they arrested the master of the stall, placed him before the Court on a charge of selling putrid meat, and secured a conviction. No doubt with the grievances of the pork vendors before him, His Excellency will cause searching inquiry to be made into the matter, and see that justice is done. It is high time that the Leal Senado dealt more fairly with our merchants, and took active steps to abolish the too prevalent "squeeze pigdin" among their employees.

RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The first "At Home" given by H. E. Senhor Alves Roccas, Governor of Macao, was held on Saturday, the 19th inst. Over sixty ladies and unusually large number of gentlemen were present, including a few from Hongkong, Canton and Shanghai. Senhor and Lady Roccas by their geniality made the occasion most pleasant and enjoyable. Dapcing was kept up till quite a late hour. Amongst the guests present were Senhor Moraes, Consul General for Portugal at Canton, Senhor Leiria, the Portuguese Consul at Hongkong, Major Nathan, Mr. Soares, Mr. and Miss Silva of Shanghai, and others.

"A Visitor to Macao" writes that he was detained there on Sunday last on account of typhoon weather and found that the whole city had not a single lighted street-lamp. He was told that this is of frequent occurrence and that the thieves in consequence are growing bolder.

The Colonial Secretary's Office inform us that Manila is declared to be infected with cholera. A Manila contemporary of the 22nd inst. states that on Sunday the 20th there were 59 cases of cholera, and on the following day 47, "with a death rate of less than fifty per cent."

PUBLIC COMPANIES.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING COMPANY.

The Hon. Mr. J. W. Gresson presided at the annual meeting of shareholders in the above Company held on Sept. 26th at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.). There were also present Sir Paul Chater and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar (consulting committee), Messrs. A. Denison, E. Ormiston, C. H. Ross, W. E. Clarke, A. Constand, A. Shaw, Lo Cheung Shui, Ho Yu-Shang, R. E. Piercy, H. W. Petley, and W. M. Fleming (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The Report and Accounts having been in your hands for some days I propose with your approval to take them as read. The depression in the yarn trade referred to at our last Annual Meeting continued during the first half of the period covered by the accounts now under review, and for some months the Mill was working at a loss. In the Spring of this year however a considerable improvement in demand took place, but it is unfortunate that we have been unable to take full advantage of this improvement, owing to the difficulty of obtaining adequate labour. It will be remembered that at the end of April 1907 it was found necessary, owing to lack of demand, to curtail our production, which was done by reducing the number of spindles running and dispensing with the services of about half our workpeople. So soon as the improvement in the yarn trade commenced, we at once endeavoured to increase the number of spindles at work, but this year we have experienced greater difficulty than on any previous occasion in bringing the mill into full working. This is doubtless due to the existence of remunerative work on the mainland on Railway enterprises, which have recently come into being, but the result is that we have had to be contented with unskilled labour, which takes time to train, and a consequent decrease in output for the time being. Our workers are however gradually improving and we have now about 45,000 spindles running out of a total of 55,000. Taking into consideration the difficulties with which we have had to contend, I trust that you will consider the gain on working viz \$23,356.80 as not unsatisfactory. The general position moreover shows a considerable improvement on that of last year, as may be illustrated by a comparison of the stock of yarn at the respective dates. On 31st July 1907 there was an undelivered stock at the Mill of 6,656 bales of which 5,933 bales were unsold: on 31st July this year the undelivered stock 1,181 bales all sold, and this quantity has since been reduced to 144 bales on the 19th instant. The stock of Cotton has been taken over at a safe price and the production of the Mill is sold up to mid-December at a small profit. I may mention further that we have succeeded in establishing a regular demand for our yarn in the Northern Ports of Shanghai and Tsingtan. Under these circumstances your Consulting Committee has felt justified in proposing to you that \$40,000 be taken from the Equalisation of Dividend Fund for the purpose of paying a similar dividend to that of last year and I trust that this course of action will have your approval. The property is all in first class condition. Before asking you to pass the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions concerning them.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN moved and Mr. DENISON seconded the adoption of the report which was unanimously carried.

Mr. ORMISTON moved, and Mr. LO CHEUNG SHUI seconded that Sir Paul Chater and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar be re-elected consulting committee. Carried.

Mr. W. Hutton Potts was reappointed auditor on the motion of Mr. CONSTAND seconded by Mr. SHAW.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LD.

The twenty-fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd. was held at the offices of the Company on the 19th inst. Mr. H. P. White presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. R. Shewan, J. W. C. Bonnar (Consulting Committee), J. E. Gomes (secretary), T. F. Hough and Chan King Yue.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose with your permission to take them as read. It is to be regretted that we are not able to present a more favourable Balance Sheet, but as most of you are fully aware the past year has been one of the worst, if not the worst that shipping generally has ever experienced. When I addressed you at our last General Meeting our prospects for the year just passed were not by any means unsatisfactory, and the results of the working of the Company for the first half of the period under review held out hopes of a fair return on the year's working. Unfortunately, these hopes were not realized for from after the Chinese New Year to the end of our financial year in June—a period which we generally look to as the most lucrative—there was a very great falling off in the demand for tonnage to the ports at which the Company's steamers call, and when I mention that during this half year alone the receipts for Freight and Passage were some \$40,000 less than those of corresponding period last year; (and \$60,000 less for the whole year); you will recognize how great the shrinkage in our trade has been. Even with the moderate offering prevailing the "Haimun" has on many occasions had to shut out cargo, so that shippers are now chary of shipping off to her for fear of their shipments being refused. In the new steamer "Haiyang" we shall have a first-class boat, thoroughly up-to-date in respect of cargo and passenger requirements, which while having more than double the carrying capacity of the "Haimun" will cost but little more in running expenses, and we anticipate will prove economical as regards upkeep and docking expenses. During the year the Company has commanded its full share of cargo and passenger traffic, and continues to retain the confidence of its constituents; and though it is early to forecast the future, I am glad to be able to say that there has been a slight improvement in our particular trade during the last two months, which it is sincerely hoped will continue, for though shipping is having a severe set-back it seems not unreasonable to anticipate that it will in time resume its normal condition, as trade recovers and general confidence is restored, though one can hardly look for the big dividend-bearing years of former days in shipping, with the keen competition that now exists. Gentlemen: I do not think there is anything more that I can add and before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. HOUGH seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar and R. Shewan were re-elected to the consulting committee on the motion of Mr. HOUGH seconded by the CHAIRMAN.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-appointment of Messrs. A. B. Iowe and W. H. Potts as auditors.

Mr. CHAN KING YUE seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

Mrs. Grace B. Mitchell, wife of Mr. G. L. Mitchell, dentist, at Manila, died at the San Lazaro Hospital last Monday of Asiatic cholera. Mrs. Mitchell is the second American cholera victim within a week. The third, J. J. Robbins, a stenographer of the police department, was lying in the hospital in a critical condition when the last mail left.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Victoria Recreation Club was held in the Gymnasium of the V.R.C. on Sept. 23rd. Mr. A. Rodger (president) was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. M. McIver, E. Humphreys, J. Meek, F. A. Mackintosh, E. M. Hazeland, T. Pearce and M. A. B. Souza (committee), Frank Lammert (secretary), and a very large attendance of members.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The printed report and statement of accounts having been in your possession for several days, I will with your permission adopt the usual custom, and take them as read. I have to crave your indulgence for the delay in convening this meeting, and hope the late date has caused no inconvenience. The year under review, when we consider the temporary arrangements we had at our disposal and everything upside down on the new site caused by the new buildings going up, could not be expected to give entire satisfaction, but under the circumstances, I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves on getting through as well as we did. The results of the year's working now before you, I am sure you will consider fairly good, being achieved under trying circumstances, and very fully reported by the respective sub-committees, therefore it seems needless for me to try to give you any information further than already given. I quite agree with the boat house sub-committee's remarks regarding the utter impossibility of the rowing men getting enough practice. In the first place, there were no suitable boats, and secondly, when we had a few in order, they were shut in with building material which the contractor had to store on the new site, but all these difficulties have been overcome, and I hope with the better accommodation, and more boats, the rowing members in the future will get a chance and show the same keen interest in rowing which existed in this Club several years ago. The swimming members fared better, although there was a little delay at the commencement of the season in getting staging erected. Notwithstanding this, they had a good deal of practice in the water, and on the whole did very well, especially in the different events at the Aquatic Sports. The V. R. C. team captained by H. A. Lammert, came out on top in the Water Polo Shield Competition, defeating the 87th Company R.G.A. in the final, after playing a very keen and interesting game. The R. G. A. although beaten, undoubtedly made a strong bid for victory and the coveted Shield. There was little gymnastic work done through no fault of the members, but owing to the lack of accommodation, but now that we have a first class gymnasium, fully equipped with up-to-date appliances, and instructors who know their business, it is up to the young men themselves to take a lively interest in the work, and attend regularly for practice. The benefit derived by them will be well worth the time spent in this healthy recreation, and I hope in a short time they will be able to give exhibitions in the gymnasium, which I am sure will be appreciated not only by themselves, but by all the members. Turning now to the accounts, you will observe we have not only wiped out the debit balance of \$1363.31 which we started with, but have a credit balance of \$931.31. We propose writing off \$1072.26 from the value of our assets. This is a slightly larger amount than that shown as actually gained in the year's working, but the difference is more than made up by interest earned during the year on our fixed deposits. The summary account shows the balances transferred from the Bar, Athletic and Aquatic Sports, to be all on the right side, and I am pleased to say the membership has greatly increased. All the above are important items pointing toward our financial prosperity. The annual Aquatic and Athletic Sports were held as usual, the results being very satisfactory from both a sporting and spectator's point of view. I am pleased to say in accordance with our estimates, we will have sufficient funds at our credit to pay all charges as they fall due connected with the new buildings, including fittings, furniture, electric light installation, and up-to-date physical culture appliances for

the gymnasium. I desire on your behalf, and my own to thank our energetic Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Auditors, the members of the various committees, and those gentlemen who assisted us in acting as officials, for their respective valuable services willingly rendered in different capacities and occasions, thus helping to promote the best interests of this Club, and the gentlemen who presented prizes or subscribed towards the funds of the Aquatic and Athletic Sports, also the Government and Naval Authorities for assisting us to make the most of our new site. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, should any further information be desired, I shall be pleased to give it to the best of my ability.

LIEUT.-COLONEL BROKE—Does not the committee think that the deposit at the bank might be placed in shares in local industries. There is some \$3000 or \$9000 on fixed deposit, and we are only getting 3½ or 4 per cent interest.

The PRESIDENT—I may explain to you that I don't think it at all practicable. We have certainly a number of dollars in the bank, but in a very few months all that money will be taken out to meet bills. When put in the bank it was placed to the best advantage. When the time came for building we put the money in a liquid state, and as the accounts came in, that money was handed over. I think the very best interests of the Club, as far as that is concerned, have been looked after, and are being looked after at the present time.

LIEUT.-COLONEL BROKE—I will take your word for it, Mr. Chairman. There is practically no statement of liabilities in the report.

Mr. SILVA NETTO made an exceptionally long speech in support of the Chairman's remarks. It, being a eulogy on the V.R.C., was punctuated by bursts of applause. The speaker concluded by seconding the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts. This, on being put, was carried unanimously.

There was absolute unanimity regarding the re-election of a president. Mr. A. Rodger was re-elected on the motion of Mr. F. LAMMERT, seconded by Mr. L. LAMMERT.

Mr. FRANK LAMMERT was re-elected secretary on the motion of Mr. JORGE, seconded by Mr. Mc VIDER.

The PRESIDENT proposed the appointment of Mr. S. Seth as treasurer.

Mr. COOKE seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. JORGE suggested that a cash account should be kept in the bar. If run on a cash basis he thought a cash book would do as well as coupons or chits.

The PRESIDENT stated that the remark had been noted, and would be considered by the incoming committee. The election of committees was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Messrs. T. Meek, J. Rodger, L. Lammert, F. Mackintosh, M. McIver, T. E. Pearce, C. B. Franklin, W. Logan and E. Humphreys.

BALLETING COMMITTEE.

A. P. Robba, A. A. Claxton, J. Cruickshank, J. Forbes, C. E. Harrop, A. N. Kemp, A. A. Alves, J. E. Alves, E. M. Hazeland and H. A. Seth.

Considerable discussion followed, but of no public interest, regarding the building of a new bath. This was unanimously agreed to by members, and the proceedings finished.

Cheers followed for the Chairman, the secretary and Mr. C. Leabirel, the energetic steward whose courtesy has always been appreciated by members.

The Director of the Observatory makes in his report on the last typhoon the interesting observation that "lightning which had been first observed at 11 p.m. continued until 2 a.m. With the exception of the typhoon of September 18th, 1906, this is the only occasion on which lightning has been observed here near the centre of a typhoon during the past 25 years. Thunder was not heard." The highest recorded velocity of the wind on that occasion was 81 miles per hour at two o'clock, but, Mr. Fig. adds, the record of wind velocity is not reliable probably from midnight owing to an accident to the instruments.

NOTES—MUSICAL AND OTHERWISE.

[By an Occasional Contributor.]

WANTED AMUSEMENTS.

Why is it that someone will not show enterprise and help this community to enjoy itself during the hot weather? Night after night, those who dwell on Peak have no amusement, unless they be Slaves of the Bridge, other than looking down on the dark green-watered harbour, or making conversation. In the town we have to fly to Kowloon to find recreation, albeit we have a Recreation Club in our midst. The Kowloon Cricket Club took us over once, and I believe will give us another evening's music. The frequent musical evenings at the Kowloon Hotel have afforded many people an enjoyable couple of hours; while the officers and their friends have on every other Monday evening the 13th Rajputs Band to discuss programmes, which are invariably interesting, up at the Club on the hill. But, still, why should we have to go across the water to obtain music or singing?

Think of the hundreds who would welcome an out-door show during the hot weather. I feel sure that the business end of a theatre is not the inside only. Where is the hotel which will convert its roof to a good and useful, and business-like use? The early opening of an open air theatre need not mean a wild rush based on æsthetic or philanthropic motives. The Kowloon Cricket Club concert proved that. Give a good programme, a musical menu of numbers attractive in their entirety to all and answered for by capable artists, and we should find big houses every time. Art could take the place of vulgarity, and *mens populi* be not only pleased, but a healthy change from frousty bars, hot billiard rooms, or dull evenings *chez nous* would be permanently available for the people generally. And, I assert again, we have the material among us to attract.

Roof gardens are scoring in London, and now Montreal and many cities too in the States are copying the lead of brisk New York. Can we not dig out a *locale* where we can sit in our cool evening kit, or flannels, and listen to a band, or to some bright song from Lionel Monckton's latest effort? Are our own splendid gardens to be thrown away for the benefit of perhaps ten amahs; four out-of-works, and a few very few *cognoscenti* learned in matters floral or arborial?

I have read, with deep feelings of esteem, of the offer of a generous gentleman to provide a large sum towards a Hongkong University. With what enthusiasm would be hailed a movement towards founding a real live source of healthy amusement for all—rich and poor alike—compelled to live out here in the Far East? The University is a nebulous matter indeed, and grand may be the results in the distant future—academic and moral; but, would not Hongkong derive material and present advantages were some steps taken to give it surroundings other than now exist? We have a garden with no band; a theatre with no scenery and with no "props" worth mentioning; a concert hall with empty chairs; beautiful harvest moons and glorious evenings, but alas! no other than normal means of enjoying them.

Unlike other cities we have no opening fusillade of plays when the cold weather comes. Can we not take time by the forelock? Should not the theatre belong to the municipality, stock it with an "interior" or two, with "borders," wood wings and "borders" to match, and add a decent back cloth, together with a drop-act. Elect a man cognizant with "the profession" as a paid secretary and resident manager, one who can be civil to all, know his business, and be found on the premises when wanted. Then the local A. D. C. will be in their proper place, and not be subjected to calls upon their undoubted good nature for the loan of stuff; local Societies will spring up, given a real theatre with "props," a decent staff of scene shifters, and a white man in charge; amateur shows I fancy would not be conspicuous by their absence; local talent, amateur and

professional, may then combine and Hongkong not continue to rely on visiting Musical Comedy Companies with leading ladies who might well be relegated to the chorus, and other principals—veritably "old men"—who made their initial bows behind the footlights "when we were boys together."

I have seen musical comedies. We can rely cast one here. Some one might even write a piece round Hongkong and its Peak. [N.B.—What a pretty backcloth for a full moon scene: our harbour and the thousands of twinkling lights; the Ferry boats, the dear old Tamar.] "The Belle of the Praya". A soubrette for the Belle with a contralto voice, instead of a very fair dunsel with a shrieky soprano. The naval officer who must be a barytone with breezy presence; the "millingtary man who sings lustily, smokes cigarettes, and is in love with the Belle; a fat man for comic "buz"; a chorus composed of our many ladies who help in the cathedral, and a band under some one who knows his business, yet who can make allowances for a player not grasping his score at sight; one who can pick up dropped cues, and save "situations". The male chorus the Y.M.C.A. might well supply, for here we have a right smart body of young fellows who are no sycophants but of sterling merit.

In fine, Shanghai may well laugh at us. We are like the lost harrier taken out with a pack of fox hounds. We have the taste for fun but are "running riot" for want of proper handling. We have the men, the place, the opportunities; but need leaders with money to help us along. Why, even an Indian Cantonment is ahead of us in many respects, while a Hill station! Oh, Lud! They have their season theatricals, bands and dances, with but a few score to fall back on to pay or play. What a Winter advertisement for the town had we a weekly concert in the City Hall on a given afternoon by the bands here, in rotation? What an extra attraction were tea sold, handled by pretty Japanese girls, in the absence of the lily-white be-capped and be-cuffed British maids, seen on Band Days at Scarborough, Bournemouth or Eastbourne? And there is profit in tea! Can the town or, rather, the taxpayers, face the sum involved necessary to provide a Band in Winter—less the profits by the (possible) sale of tea, and 5 cents for every chair occupied in the City Hall? In Summer, a roof garden, or our Botanical Gardens; in the cold weather the City Hall. We have our material. Let it be hoped that some prominent citizen like Sir Paul Chater, or Mr. Mody, will magnanimously exclaim "So Mote it Be," and then call a meeting, and let the *vox populi* decide whether Hongkong be allowed to still wallow idly in the slough of want of energy.

"DOWN SOUTH."

JUMPED ON A POLICEMAN'S HEAD.

Unusual excitement attended a gambling raid which was carried out at 18 Amoy Lane on Saturday night and Sergeant Davey had a misadventure which might have ended fatally. The lukongs had filed up the narrow stairway to the upper storey where the gamblers were assembled and the sergeant stood at the entrance waiting for the stairway to be cleared before he ascended. The rush of the lukongs created consternation among the crowd upstairs and three of the number leaped out of the window. The first man alighted with both feet on the head of the sergeant, followed by another who jumped on to his shoulder. As the unlucky officer was falling to the ground in a unconscious condition the third man fell on to his back. The first man whose fall was broken was apparently unhurt, for he made good his escape. The other two however received injuries to their legs and had to be removed to the hospital. The sergeant's escape is also marvellous. The wonder is that his neck was not dislocated. He recovered consciousness in about fifteen minutes and seems little the worse for his experience.

Prince Tsai Fu, son of Prince Ching, has been appointed Secretary to the Special Embassy to the United States.

THE BISHOP HOARE MEMORIAL WINDOW.

YESTERDAY'S CEREMONY AT THE CATHEDRAL.

The memorial window which has been placed in the south transept of St. John's Cathedral, in memory of Bishop Hoare was unveiled on Sunday the 20th inst, under circumstances which were grimly reminiscent of the tragic day which made 18th September, 1908, a date to be remembered in Hongkong.

The anniversary of the calamitous visitation fell on Friday and it was not inappropriate that the memorial should be unveiled so close to that occasion, while the fact that the typhoon signals were hoisted helped to recall still more vividly the events of the great typhoon. There was a large congregation and the clergy present were Ven. Archdeacon Banister, Revs F. T. Johnson, G. A. Bunbury, J. H. France and E. J. Barnett.

The beautiful window which has been erected in the south transept is no ordinary tribute to the memory of a beloved bishop. It is not the gift of one man but is the expression of the affectionate regard which so many entertained towards a man who gave himself for others. His life was a record of service rendered to his fellows. That explains why the deceased was revered as a prelate and beloved as a man. Therefore the symbolising of the reward of the faithful as the central theme on the window was a beautiful idea, and the pictorial representation of those in peril on the sea was also very appropriate. The main section of the window which is the work of Messrs. William Morris & Co. Ruskin House, Rochester Road, London, represents the vision of St. John on the Island of Patmos as set forth in Revelations VII, the words from the last verse of the chapter being quoted "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Beneath are three sea scenes. The first indicates the calling of the Apostles, and the text "Follow me" is quoted. Another represents the storm at sea when Jesus "arose and said unto the sea: Peace, be still." The third scene is that of Christ walking on the water when he said: "It is I: be not afraid." The inscription on the window itself was:

"To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the eight years' episcopate of the Right Reverend Joseph Charles Hoare, D.D. Consecrated St. Barnabas Day, 1898. Fourth Bishop of Victoria. Born November 15, 1851. Died September 18, 1908."

The marble tablet underneath the window bears the following inscription:

"To the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Charles Hoare, D.D., fourth Bishop of Victoria, Hongkong, 1898-1908. He was 22 years missionary in Mid-China, where he founded Trinity College, Ningpo. As Bishop of this diocese he had the oversight of the Church in Fukien and South China. In the 56th year of his age he was drowned while returning from a preaching tour, together with four Chinese students of St Paul's College, during the great typhoon 18th September, 1908.

Remember them that had rule over you which spake unto you the Word of God and consider the issue of their life, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and to-day, yea and for ever."

After the reading of the second lesson the clergy and surpliced choir left the choir stalls in processional order and took up their places in front of the window, where His Excellency the Governor and several others belonging to the Church body were standing.

DR. ATKINSON, stepping forward, addressed the Governor in the following words: Your Excellency, it was felt that in this beloved cathedral church of ours there should be some lasting memorial of the life work and sad death of Bishop Hoare. Mrs. Hoare and the relatives were consulted and they agreed with us in thinking that this would be the most fitting. The scenes in the window bear witness to the tragic manner of his death. In this changeable work-a-day community this window will be a reminder of one of the noble holy lives which have been spent in our midst and should be to us and to those who follow us an incentive to better things. On behalf of the subscribers I would now ask

you, Sir, to unveil the window to the glory of God and in grateful memory of the eight years' episcopate of our late Bishop.

His EXCELLENCY, having pulled the cord which furled the veil and exposed the window to view, said—I unveil this window to the glory of God and to the memory of Joseph Charles Hoare, D.D., Bishop of this diocese from 1898 till 1906, who lost his life at sea in the typhoon of September 18th, 1906, and who was beloved of all men for his single hearted devotion to his duty. At the request of the contributors to the memorial I entrust this window to the keeping of the authorities of this cathedral.

The Rev. F. T. JOHNSON, chaplain, accepted the trust on behalf of the church authorities, and offered up the following dedicatory prayer.

"O Almighty and Eternal God, Thou who art greatly to be feared in the assembly of Thy saints and art had in honour of all those that are round about Thee; we humbly beseech Thee, that Thou wilt look down from the Throne of Thy Majesty, and wilt accept and sanctify this window which we now offer to the glory of Thy great Name and in memory of Thy faithful servant. Receive from our hands, we beseech Thee, this gift which we present, and vouchsafe Thy blessing that it may ever point heavenwards the thoughts and minds of all who worship in this Thy House of Prayer. And, O most powerful and glorious Lord God, at whose command the winds blow, and lift up the waves of the sea, and who stillest the rage thereof, grant that we Thy servants may learn and seriously consider how frail and uncertain our condition here on earth is, and so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom; that in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgment that is to follow, we may have our part in the resurrection of eternal life; through Him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. AMEN."

One of the hymns sung was "Jesus lover of my soul," the favourite of the late Bishop.

The sermon was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon BAXISTER, who dealt with the solution of the race problem, a subject which had occupied the attention of the recent Lambeth Conference. This problem was the despair of men to day but the church came forward with the message, the old time message of the gospel "Ye are all one in Christ." Resolution No. 20 at the Conference read thus: "All races and all peoples whatever the language or position must be welded into one body." Proceeding, he said there were three things brought to their minds by looking at the beautiful window just exposed with its pictured story. There they saw the realization of the ideal of Christ, the task completed, the work done, and the discipline passed through. They would see lower down in the window the essential condition through which the ideal was to be realised. Throughout the ages the ideal was that through conflict, storm and suffering would the crown of glory be won. Future generations of worshippers into that church would be told of these great ideals—the window would point to the great ideal of the Church of Christ. That ideal could only be realised through strife and suffering and toil. The window was a memorial of one who gave himself up to that ideal, up to that task. From the early days of his vicariate in Tunbridge Wells, from the days of his schoolboy life, from the days when he was an undergraduate at Cambridge, their late Bishop set before himself the ideal of doing something to realise that men should be at one in Christ Jesus, and as men and women worshipped within those sacred walls they would think of him who tried to realise that ideal. They in Hongkong had a task that ought to be confronted fearlessly of doing something to bring together the broken parts of the family of God, and about that he wanted to speak. After dealing with the existing differences in race and colour, he suggested that these differences if they could not be removed should be bridged over. The same with regard to differences in social conditions. What were they doing in Hongkong to deal with the Asiatic problem? He would suggest that in Hongkong there should be formed an organiza-

tion which should have a meeting place where the East and the West could meet and discuss each other's problems and difficulties and lose their suspicions of each other's motives. We had our chambers of commerce but they existed purely for economic advantages, and we had the China Association which was for the maintenance of interests of one particular class that lived in the East under the protection of Pax Britannica. Here in Hongkong we stood midway between the three great peoples of Asia—Japan, India, and China, and was it not the most appropriate place in the world to call such an association into existence for the promotion of the brotherhood of men?

HEAVY PENALTIES ON STOWAWAYS.

Sergeant Caygill charged eight natives before Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 18th inst with stowing away on the s.s. "Prinz Waldemar" to Sydney.

Mr. H. K. Holmes represented five of the defendants.

Captain Senden of the "Prinz Waldemar" stated that he arrived in Sydney on August 8th. He found the defendants on the top of the ship's boilers. They had not obtained passages, and did not form part of the crew.

His Worship—Are extra hands engaged on board without signing on?—I don't know.

Would you allow it if you knew it was being done?—No, certainly not.

What is the penalty if a Chinese gets into Australia?—£100.

Is the captain fined, or the owners?—The owners.

Were the defendants handed over to the police in Australia?—No, I had them looked up until the Chinese Merchants Association paid a guarantee of £100 each that they would not run away.

Who would get the £100 if they did?—The Australian Government.

Mr. Holmes—Were these men fined in any way?—I don't think so.

I am instructed that they paid a sum of £15 each out of their own pockets.—I don't know anything about that.

They paid their passages back didn't they?—The Chinese Merchants Association did.

His Worship—What was the passage back?—£15 each.

Mr. Holmes—Did one of your firemen leave the ship or run away after these men were found?—One ran away.

Mr. Holmes pleaded guilty on behalf of his clients, and asked his Worship to deal leniently with them.

The defendants who were not represented said they had given the head fireman \$6 0 apiece to take them to Australia. The fireman set them to work on the steamer, and told them he would guarantee their landing in Australia.

His Worship said this was considered a serious offence by the Australian Government, and Shippers were liable to a fine of \$1000 if the men escaped. He would therefore fine each of the defendants \$1000, in default six months' imprisonment.

A TRADE MARK CASE IN JAPAN.

We learn from the *Japan Mail* that decision has been given in the Patent Bureau on a protest filed by Herr J. S. Staedtler of Nuernberg against M. Takakawa, a pencil manufacturer of Osaka. On Feb. 24th 1904, the German manufacturer registered a trade-mark showing a representation of a human face within a crescent and the description "J. S. Staedtler's Moon" affixed to all pencils manufactured by him. His complaint was that a Japanese registered a trade-mark consisting of a new moon with the inscription "144, T. S. Standard," and that this closely resembled his trade-mark. He further held that the registration of the Japanese trade-mark should be taken as null and void since it would create perplexity in the public mind *vis-a-vis* the German mark. Mr. Nakamatsu, Director of the Patent Bureau, admitted the protest and ordered the Japanese manufacturer to refrain from using the trade-mark on pencils made by him.

INTERESTING ARMS PROSECUTION.

HEAVY PENALTY IMPOSED.

The charge against Rudolf Rehmin, second officer of the German steamer "Ambia," of being in unlawful possession of arms and ammunition, was continued at the Magistracy on Sept. 22nd before Mr. Kemp.

Mr. Davidson, who appeared on behalf of the defendant, submitted that his client being an officer of the German naval reserve was entitled to the exemptions stated by the Ordinance.

Defendant said as an officer of the German naval reserve he had to go up for active training for eight weeks every second year. He carried a revolver then. There was no particular pattern laid down. He explained his possession of the guns by the fact that he used the revolvers for target practice and that he bought the guns for hunting purposes.

In reply to questions put through the Court defendant admitted that the arms produced were taken on board by himself. His cabin was searched by the police. On the night before, he took a Chinaman into his cabin and showed him a pistol which in reply to his visitor's questions he said was worth \$28. The Chinaman wanted to buy it but defendant told him he could not do so unless he produced a licence. He also showed the Chinaman a book which explained how the pistol should be taken apart. It was not a book of pistol patterns.

Did you offer to sell no less than six revolvers at one time?—No.

You had a Browning pistol?—Yes.

Where is it?—I have it now. It was on a book shelf in my room when the police searched it.

His Worship—It seems very extraordinary it was lying on the shelf and the police did not find it!

Defendant—It was lying there.

You did not mention anything about the Browning pistol to the police?—No.

How many Chinese were in your room on the night you showed this book to the Chinaman?—Once there were two, and twice, one.

When you took these men into your room you always took the precaution to shut the door?—It was always shut.

Re-examined—The Chinese who came to his cabin was a man whom he had known a long time, and from whom he had bought things.

His Worship—Do you provide guns for the ship?

Defendant—We expected a little hunting.

And you brought guns because you liked to have them?—Yes.

What did you use five revolvers for?—I used three for target practice. They are all different.

Mr. Davidson contended that defendant as an officer of the German naval reserve was entitled to the benefit of the exemption under the Ordinance.

His Worship did not accept this view, and witnesses were called to state for what purposes the arms were used.

The captain and third officer spoke to defendant having brought the guns on board for hunting purposes. On several occasions when they had hunting on shore they had to borrow guns. The revolvers were used for target practice.

Sergt. A. Terrett said that when he entered defendant's cabin he asked him if he had any more than the two shot guns and the two revolvers. Defendant said he had not. They searched the cabin and found others. The Browning pistol was not on the book shelf when they searched the place. The revolvers were wrapped in papers, and other papers were found in the cabin.

Cross-examined—Those papers were used for wrapping revolvers.

Did you not receive information he had a large quantity of Browning pistols?—Yes, and other arms.

How many paper wrappers were there?—About 20.

What did you hear that he had done with all those pistols?—I only know what I received from the informer. I suspect that he sold the revolvers.

Did you search any other part of the ship?—Only the second officer's room.

You have not called the informer?—No.

Why not?—I don't wish to.

Isn't it rather singular that the informer should not have been ready to ascertain where the pistols went?—Probably he has.

It appears to you that defendant disposed of 20 pistols in one or two days and there is no evidence he did so?—I have not charged him with disposing of the pistols.

What do you call making a thorough search?—Searching every crevice and corner, taking out drawers and looking behind them.

You searched every place where something might be hidden?—Yes.

Did you search every place where things would not be hidden?—If I am searching for anything I usually make a pretty clean search.

Did you look on the top of the bookcase yourself?—I think I did.

Mr. Davidson submitted that the defendant was in possession of the arms from perfectly innocent motives, and at best it was only a technical offence which should be dealt with by a nominal penalty.

His Worship said he could come to no other conclusion than that defendant was guilty of a substantial offence. He would impose a fine of \$100 and the arms and ammunition would be forfeited.

THE TYPHOON.

When the typhoon signals were hoisted on Saturday the 19th inst. the coincidence was remarked that Friday was the anniversary of the great typhoon of 1906 and the following day saw the colony preparing against the possibility of another dread visitation. On Sunday morning the red drum surmounted by a cone pointed downwards repeated the message of the previous night but when later in the day these were replaced by the black drum and cone, which indicated that the typhoon was within, three hundred miles south east of the colony people feared for the worst. All the small craft in the harbour had sought refuge very early and yesterday the steamers in the harbour had full steam up. Some anxiety was felt lest the Canton and Macao steamers should encounter the storm on the way to Hongkong, but fortunately nothing happened to interfere with the ordinary running steamers. Ashore householders took the usual precautions. At night the signals were green, red, green, but though rain fell intermittently there was little wind and the typhoon did not come within 200 miles of the Colony.

ANOTHER SUICIDE.

Another Chinese woman residing at Centre Street, West Point, ended her life by taking opium on Thursday. Deceased's husband, who is a herbalist, on returning home for his midday meal on the day mentioned, found his wife lying on the bed. When he spoke to her she told him not to bother her, as she wanted to sleep. The husband then sat down to his meal, and on entering his wife's room a quarter of an hour afterwards, found her unconscious. He sent to the Tung Wah Hospital for a doctor, and when the medical man arrived he ordered the removal of the woman to hospital. Shortly after arrival there she died, and her body was removed to the mortuary.

The Netherlands India Estimates for 1909 have been laid before the Dutch Parliament. The figures show a deficit of seven millions 2 guilders caused by extraordinary outlay. Had it not been for this outlay, the balance would have been the other way to the amount of two millions of guilders. It is not intended to increase taxation except in some of the outlying islands. The additional outlay includes the extension of education, especially among Chinese children, and railway construction in Java and Sumatra. There will be further experimenting with mechanical tin-mining in Banka. The opium, gambling and spirit farms on the East Coast of Sumatra will be extended. The Banka tin output is set at 190,000 piculs next year.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 18th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK SUED
Judgment was delivered in the action brought by Lau Man Cho, otherwise Lau Hok Shun, to recover from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 34 title deeds which, plaintiff alleges, are his property, and are wrongfully detained by the defendant. Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Fwens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff, while the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master) represented the defendants.

His Lordship in the course of a lengthy judgment said two preliminary objections were taken to the jurisdiction of the Court. The first was that the action related to the title to land abroad, and therefore the Court must decline to entertain it. The general principle was a familiar one, but it did not apply to this case. The right to the possession of the documents of title to the land was, it was true, in issue, but the question involved was the right of the defendants to retain them, and the right claimed was that they had a charge upon them or upon the land represented by them. The case was covered by at least a dozen authorities in which the English Courts had dealt with mortgages of lands abroad by way of foreclosure decrees. The charge, if it existed, was created in this colony, the parties were in the colony, the decree could be enforced, and therefore all the elements were present which the English Courts held to be sufficient to entitle them to exercise jurisdiction. The second point was that the defendant bank had instituted proceedings before the Nambui Magistracy at Canton in respect of the question raised in the action in which it was said that the plaintiff had appeared as defendant, thereby submitting to the jurisdiction of that magistrate. He might remark that the facts in so far as the plaintiff in this action was concerned, did not warrant this point being raised upon them, but even if they did the case was absolutely covered by *Hyma v. Hilen* 24 Ch. D. 531, where it was held that a party who was a defendant in a suit in one country might legitimately put himself in the position of plaintiff in another country in respect of the same cause of action. After an elucidation of quoted authorities, his Lordship proceeded to give his opinion on the facts. The plaintiff's case, he would not say, was plain and intelligible. Plaintiff gave his evidence in a straightforward way, though on one or two occasions his explanations did not seem entirely satisfactory. It certainly did seem extraordinary, continued his Lordship, that a man engaged in so vast an undertaking as this lottery business, and having so large a sum as taels 1,400,990 available, should trust not only this sum and title deeds of property worth apparently half a million more, but all his interest in the remaining period of the then existing concession in the hands of men some of whom at least were not too well known to him, and that he should further embark with them in a new enterprise in connection with the further concession which was to last six years, and then go away to Shanghai or Peking and practically not come near the place again. He did not lose sight of the fact that these deeds were in fact left with the partners for the express purpose of raising money for the necessities of the Wang Fung Company, and the Bank's case was that they were in fact so used. It looked almost as if a case of negligence might be made out, but assuming that that would be sufficient in law to justify the retention of deeds handed over without authority he could not go so far as to say there was negligence in fact. The plaintiff did take precautions. He gave instructions to his partners and expected that they would carry them out. The fact that Lau Wai Chun and Ma Fat Ting and Wai Long Shan acted contrary to those instructions did not prove that the plaintiff was negligent. Misplaced confidence

did not amount to negligence. He would not attempt to weigh the evidence, nor would he go through it all, because he was of opinion that the evidence which had been given on behalf of the Bank broke down and did not establish the propositions on which alone their right to retain the deeds could rest. He would examine therefore, the defendants' evidence alone. The case in its simplest terms was this: that the Wang Fung or Lau Man (who himself was in great need of the large sum necessary to pay the royalty due to the Chinese Government for the concession. This was taels 1,600,000 payable in two instalments of taels 1,000,000 and 600,000 respectively. The great question was how to raise it in Hongkong, and then the ingenious Mr. Ma Fat Ting, the partner of many firms, suggested raising the necessary money by means of manipulation in bills; he in fact put his chop and signboard, in other words his credit, at the disposal of his partners. After a reference to the agreement signed in 1895 his Lordship said the bills of exchange sued on were bought with the deeds as collateral security, but were handed to the bank as security for the payment of bills then already over due. Now Ma Fat Ting was most cynically candid as to the means which he adopted to raise the money required for the royalty: he sold a few bills and then on maturity he sold a few more and so on, and so on, until all the bills comprised in the particulars, totalling with additions subsequently made to nearly one and a half millions, but unfortunately his story did not hold water. A considerable amount of the money received on those bills could not have gone to the Wang Fung, but must have gone to meet the series of bills which fell due some months previously, if his story was accurate. The Wang Fung could not have received anything approaching that sum at the time it was required unless (allowing for premium and interest) practically the same number of bills had been negotiated in 1897. But Mr. Ma Fat Ting said he did not do this, but began in a smaller way, a few at first, then more, then more still, till at last the long list in the particulars was reached. But, continued his Lordship, that would not do either, because as there was no question of renewing bills, but only replacing bills at maturity by new bills which supplied the funds for meeting the old one, as well as some more cash for the Wang Fung. The case on its financial side broke down completely: it destroyed the whole theory of the case set up by Ma Fat Ting and his confederates, and it carried with it all the elaborate fiction on which the case was reared, that the pressing and immediate necessity for raising 1,600,000 in Hongkong to pay the royalty was the cause of the negotiation of these bills to the bank. And it must destroy as a necessary consequence all the evidence as to authority to pledge the deeds in the way in which the pledging was done. He must therefore reject it. But it was said that putting all this on one side if it could be proved that the money raised on the last series of bills, those in question in the action, did in fact go into the coffers of the Wang Fung, then his view of the law being wrong, the Bank could recover. In order to prove this some books were tendered in evidence as the books of the Wang Fung and the question arose whether he could receive them under the Evidence Ordinance. He could receive such books if he was satisfied that they were what they purported to be, and also that they were regularly kept in the ordinary way of business. The books were produced by So Pat Ting who said he was the accountant of the Wang Fung, but they bore no name of the Wang Fung inside or outside. So Pat Ting said incidentally that he and his assistant had copied them from rough books. Beyond So Pat Ting's statement that they were Wang Fung books, there was nothing to make the court believe that they were. In order to account for the absence of the name of the firm on the books it was pointed out that the lottery business, being illegal in Hongkong, it would naturally not be put on them, but the contents were harmless enough, and he had nothing to do with lotteries. But the most cursory glance at the contents—and it was necessary that he should at least look at the contents in order to see if the requirements of the Ordinance were satisfied—showed that they were no more the Wang Fung books than

was his note book. On the face of them they were the ordinary books of a regular bill discounter. There was the profit or loss of each set of transactions tallied up at the bottom of each account. There was no evidence that the Wang Fung carried on the business of bill discounters. There was evidence that they raised money by the sale of bills in the way described by Ma Fat Ting, but the books showing these transactions would be quite different from the books produced, and he was satisfied that on the face of them they were not the books of the Wang Fung, but of some other firm. The item in No. 2 book relating to a transaction in yarn was of itself almost sufficient to warrant their rejection. He always strained a point not to reject books of account which it was the policy of the Evidence Ordinance to make evidence, but he was perfectly certain that if these books were examined by an accountant and compared with the balance sheets it would be found that they had nothing whatever to do with the Wang Fung, except the Wang Fung Canton account itself, which showed pretty plainly that they were the books of some other firm, apparently the Lai Hing, and that the Wang Fung had an account with that firm. The facts failing to establish the case which, as he had said, might possibly have been established in law, judgment would be for the plaintiffs with costs.

Mr. Pollock asked in view of the large amount at stake for a stay of execution for three months in order that the Bank might consider their position.

Mr. Slade objected to the stay of execution. The plaintiff had obtained judgment and was entitled to the benefit of that judgment. The Bank had instituted proceedings in China and the possession of the deeds was naturally of great value. If defendants would give an undertaking to abandon those proceedings—

Mr. Pollock said he could not consent to that, but he would give an undertaking that the matter remain in statu quo.

Mr. Slade was dissatisfied with that.

His Lordship pointed out that the ordinary proceeding was to apply to the Full Court.

Mr. Pollock agreed, but pointed to the possibility of the deeds going out of the colony, as the plaintiff was resident in China.

His Lordships—They might remain with the solicitors.

Mr. Slade.—They are so valuable the solicitor does not wish them to remain with him.

Mr. Pollock—They might remain with the bank.

Mr. Slade—We don't trust you. We don't know that you will not use them against us. He added that the Bank could bring great pressure to bear diplomatically in China, and that he could not consent to the deeds remaining with the bank.

After discussion it was decided that the deeds be deposited in a neutral bank, the Chartered Bank, and that if the plaintiff required them he could make application in chambers to the judge.

Judgment was formally entered for the plaintiff.

Monday, 21st September.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED FALSE DECLARATION.

Lau Kiu was indicted on the charge of making a false declaration at the Supreme Court on May 16th. Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and the following jurors were called:—P. B. Wolfe (foreman), K. Laurens, F. S. Allen, G. A. Caldwell, R. C. Walker, A. E. Asger and D. W. Towne.

The Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C., Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and prisoner was not defended.

The Attorney-General stated that this was a case of making a false declaration before the Commissioner for Oaths in the register of the Supreme Court in a matter affecting probate. The indictment in perjury cases was always rather elaborate, and Counsel expected that the gentlemen of the jury would probably think, when he had related the facts connected with

this case, that it was somewhat complicated. But when all the facts were laid before them it would be perfectly simple, and the issue they would have to decide was a simple one. The case arose out of the disputed ownership of a small house near Shauiwan. It was built by a quarryman (now deceased) named Lai Leung about 15 years ago. He lived in it with his wife until his death in June 1905. The day before his death he obtained a Crown lease of the site of the house. Deceased left a widow, who was the prosecutrix in this case. At his death no administration or probate was granted in respect of this property; apparently the parties were poor, and no steps were taken to secure administration. The widow of deceased left Hongkong for a time after her husband's death, and the house in question was then taken care of by the husband of the defendant. Two years later prosecutrix returned to the Colony and lived in part of the house which, during her absence, had been divided into two parts. Defendant lived in the other part. In the spring of the present year the land bailiff discovered that part of the house was an encroachment on Crown land, and gave the widow notice to move it. Then the widow went to defendant and asked her to give up possession of her part of the house. The defendant at first refused, but was afterwards persuaded to do so by prosecutrix and probably by the influence brought to bear by the Inspector of Police at Shauiwan. As soon as defendant left, prosecutrix let the house to another woman, and shortly afterwards a summons was issued by the magistrate, on the application of a man named Lai Leung, to eject the occupier of the house. Prosecutrix instituted inquiries and found that this man had obtained a grant of administration from the Supreme Court to the estate of deceased, alleging that he was the next of kin, and that he had registered the grant of property in his name at the Land Office. It was necessary that there should be an affidavit of identity filed before administration was granted, and the defendant, it appeared, identified this man and corroborated his petition by making a declaration before the Commissioner for Oaths to the effect that he was Lai Leung, and that he was the younger brother of deceased. Prosecutrix alleged that the petitioner was no relation whatever to her deceased husband, who never had a brother. The practical effect of this crime was to deprive prosecutrix of her property. The case was an important one, because although the property in question was small, there was a serious question involved. It was therefore the duty of the Crown to take up this case to protect the public against frauds of this description.

When evidence had been heard his Lordship directed the jury to find a verdict of not guilty, as there was not sufficient evidence to convict.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly, and the prisoner was discharged.

The Sessions were adjourned.

Tuesday, September 22nd.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED PIRACY.

Li Sik and three other natives were arraigned on charges of robbery and receiving stolen goods. Prisoners pleaded not guilty on both counts, and the following jury was empanelled:—J. H. Underwood (foreman), A. McDougall, A. W. Wardigan, V. A. de Paulo Callaco, S. A. Nevill, O. D. Barretto and S. Musso.

The Attorney General (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies K.C.) instructed by Mr. Dennis, of the Crown Solicitor's office, prosecuted, and prisoners were undefended.

The Attorney General stated that this was a case of piracy. The robbery took place on a junk owned by a man named Li Ng on August 6th at Tialong in the waters of the Colony. On that day Li Ng left in his trading junk with five other men for the purpose of going to Pinghoi. On the same night, about nine o'clock, having arrived at the entrance to Tialong Bay, a boat put off from the shore and those on board the trader heard voices telling

them to stop, the demand being accompanied by a revolver shot. Li Ng and the rest of his crew became alarmed, and fled to the hold of the junk. Then the boat ran alongside and several men boarded the junk and possessed themselves of all the valuables on board, going so far as to strip two men of all their clothing. After a while two of the robbers went back to their own boat, the rest remaining on the junk. They then proceeded to sail both the junk and their own boat to the village of Tialong, the owner of the junk and the occupants during all this time being fastened down in the hold. On arrival at Tialong two boats put off from the shore, and the junk was cleared of all its cargo, which consisted of kerosene and flour. Then the robbers cut the sails of the junk before departing, so as to prevent her being sailed. The junk was then taken to Leung-shanwan by her crew, and prosecutor landed and gave information to the police. The question in this case would be one of identification. The fourth defendant played the part of Good Samaritan, taking the crew of the junk food and water while on board, and as a result he had been identified by two of the crew. The second defendant was also identified, while part of the stolen property was found in the possession of the other two. Where a man was found in possession of stolen property, assuming the theft to have been proved, the law required that he should give a reasonable account of how he became possessed of that property, otherwise he would be held liable. There was a general denial by all the prisoners, but the case for the prosecution was that two had been identified, while all were found together in the same matched, where certain of the stolen property was discovered.

When the case for the Crown had closed defendants availed themselves of the opportunity to make statements in the witness stand.

The first denied taking part in the armed robbery. His was only a two-oared boat, and unfit for such a purpose. He had been suffering from sore legs for some time, and after he was arrested he was in hospital with them. He did not know his boat had been taken by the police until told by his wife. It was broken and could not be used.

In cross-examination defendant said he knew only the third defendant. He was not in the matched with the others on August 20th. The flour and oil were brought by a relation of his, and were put in the other matched prior to being shipped away.

And the goods were yours, and the other men had nothing to do with them?—No, they were mine.

The second defendant said he was a coolie employed in Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's docks. He knew nothing about this matter. He was a day labourer getting 3 cents a day.

The third defendant declared that the police inspector, the sergeant and the Hokios were falsely accusing him. He was a business man and ran a fresh fish boat. He was sleeping when the police arrived, but the firing of a shot woke him up and he went out to see what was the matter. Seeing a Chinese detective chasing someone up the hill he asked what was the matter. When the detective heard him speak he gave up the chase and arrested witness. Sergeant Wilden struck him on the back and arms with a stick, and kicked him in the back. Then the police searched his house, but found nothing. After this they took him to another matched, and looking at him with a light said he was a robber. This was not so. He was falsely accused. His proper matched was blown down in the typhoon, so he was living in the matched visited by the police. His people had been living for three generations in Tyantak.

The fourth defendant made no statement.

After evidence for the defence had been heard, and his Lordship had summed up, the jury retired, returning twelve minutes later. On the first count they found the first and third prisoners not guilty, and the second and fourth guilty. On the second count they found all the prisoners guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the second and fourth prisoners to five years' hard labour on the first count, and three years on the second count, sentences to run concurrently. The first and third defendants were each sentenced to three years' hard labour on the second count.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Sept. 24th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

COLONEL DARLING, R. E. (General Officer Commanding).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES K.C., (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM C.M.G., (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. F. J. BADELLEY, (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. H. A. W. SLADE.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 44 to 54) and moved that they be referred to the Financial Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 15) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following papers:—Report of the Director of Public Works for the year 1907, Report on the assessment for the year 1908-1909, Report on the typhoon of 27-28th July, 1908.

A VOTE OF CENSURE MOVED.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I rise to move that—

"In the opinion of this Council the reasons given in the House of Commons on the 28th July by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, in explanation of the peremptory nature of the order issued to your Excellency on the 6th May, are unsatisfactory."

The reasons referred to were given in the debate on the Colonial Office vote. The full report of that debate, received here during the recess, has no doubt been read with interest by every member of this Council, and some of us, indeed most residents, have felt grateful to Mr. Lyttleton for having realised the point of our original protest so clearly and for having represented it so effectively. His reference to the Colony was in these terms (I quote from *The Times*):—

"In carrying out the resolution of the House for the discouragement of the opium traffic, it was presumed by every one who took part in that debate that any action taken by the Government would be deliberate and cautious, and in particular that they would seek to enlist the co-operation of the authorities of the various Colonies concerned. Unless he was misinformed there had been a grievous departure from that wholesome rule in Hongkong. . . . He was informed that a telegram was sent by the Secretary of State on May 6th saying to the Colony of Hongkong that his Majesty's Government had decided to close the opium establishments in Hongkong.

That telegram reached Hongkong three hours before the statement was made public in the House of Commons, and therefore before any information was vouchsafed to the colony on the matter. Absolutely no previous consultation had taken place, so far as he was informed, and no opinion taken of the members of the Legislative Council. . . . He hoped there would be some explanation given of this apparently high-handed proceeding."

The explanation offered by the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies was as follows:

"With reference to the complaint that we took action without consulting the authorities of Hongkong. Although they did their best to ascertain the views of the people, it was quite impossible to get anything like a reasoned opinion from the inhabitants of Hongkong."

Sir, I think it is not to be wondered at if Hongkong inhabitants find that a hard saying. The impression which it is calculated to create is obviously an unfavourable impression. The words suggest that the inhabitants are impossible people to deal with. No one could take it for a compliment. Anyone might take it as a slight. At the very least, it is open to misconstruction. It is not even clear.

Who did their best? His Majesty's Ministers or the Hongkong Authorities? There is room for just that much ambiguity owing to the speech being reported in the third person. But this ambiguity does not really signify, for His Majesty's Ministers would naturally seek to ascertain the views of the people through the Hongkong Authorities. When and how did His Majesty's Ministers thus do their best? The telegram which they caused to be sent on the 6th May contained no reference to the views of the people.

It merely notified you, Sir, of an impending announcement. Apart from that, the explanation is required to cover an antecedent period. It is therefore pertinent to enquire when, if ever, did the Home authorities approach the Hongkong authorities with the object of ascertaining the views of the people? And did the Hongkong authorities inform them that reasoned opinion was non-existent in the Colony?

I imagine not. How then did the Under Secretary of State come by this knowledge? He has scarcely been long enough at his duties to have learnt it by experience, and it can hardly be that he derived it from the permanent officials of the Colonial Office, because in that case Mr. Lyttleton would also have known of our "parlous state," and would have realised why we were thus treated, which he manifestly did not.

However, having unaccountably delivered himself of this statement, the Under Secretary then proceeded to twit Mr. Lyttleton with having previously expressed approval of the Government's policy. Mr. Lyttleton explained his former utterance thus:

"I agreed with that policy, but what I said was that every person of sense presumed that ordinary steps had been taken that would make the policy palatable."

Upon this the Under Secretary said: "The ordinary steps could not be taken for the reason given," presumably, that is, because it was impossible to get a reasoned opinion from the inhabitants. And yet, notwithstanding this, he proceeded to say that "the ordinary steps were now being taken."

Apparently "the reason given" suddenly ceased to be operative. It is all a little puzzling.

First the admission is made that the issue of the order in question, without previously consulting the authorities of Hongkong, was an extraordinary step to take; next it is claimed that this extraordinary step was justifiable because it was quite impossible to get anything like a reasoned opinion from the inhabitants; and then refuge is taken in an assurance that henceforth the action of his Majesty's ministers will be guided by the advice received

from your Excellency. To those of us who have confidence that the advice offered by your Excellency will give due weight to the reasoned opinion of the inhabitants, it appears that, after all, his Majesty's Ministers will probably be found availing themselves, in some measure, of the very thing that the Under Secretary of State said it was impossible to get.

But, Sir, no sooner had he said this than he seemed to relent, for almost in the next breath he claimed on behalf of the Government the support of "the best opinion in Hongkong."

The inference is that though a reasoned opinion is impossible to get, the kind obtainable is divisible into degrees of comparison. Of these, that which supports the action of the Government is regarded by the Under Secretary as the best. Naturally! But then the best cannot, on his own showing, be worth anything. This, Sir, is the explanation which I have ventured to describe as unsatisfactory. And when I realise that I have so described it, I am amazed at my own moderation.

Sir, in the House of Commons, owing to the limited time at the disposal of private members, it is the custom to ballot for the privilege of bringing forward resolutions dealing with matters of public interest, and it seems to have just so happened that Mr. Johnson won a place for his opium resolution, as he might have won a doll in a raffle at a bazaar.

Up to this time the opium policy of the Government had been conducted with commendable deliberation. Committed to it by the passing of a former resolution in May, 1906, they had contented themselves with concluding an arrangement for the reduction of the Indian export, and with instituting enquiries in Ceylon and Singapore as to the best method for discouraging the use of the drug.

Judging by the fact that they did nothing definite here, it was natural to suppose they realised that there was no necessity for drastic measures, inasmuch as the gradual cessation of the Indian trade would, if China kept faith, automatically entail the extinction of the opium habit in this colony. But when they found themselves suddenly faced with the problem of accepting or opposing a resolution the terms of which conveyed censure of these leisurely methods, they evidently feared to offend the powerful following of the English anti-opium agitators by opposing it, and deciding to accept it, they became anxious for tactical reasons to create the impression that they were already pursuing an active policy in all directions, and were everywhere leading, instead of being driven, into action.

They therefore hurriedly forestalled the recommendations of the resolution with regard to Hongkong by despatching the telegram of the 6th May. The message was sent in order that its despatch and terms might be effectively announced in the debate on the opium resolution. As a tactical move it was well calculated. The desired effect was produced. The announcement brought down the House. Cheers greeted it. The Government scored. From a practical point of view the main object of the opium policy was not advanced one jot. The ordinary steps are now being taken. Despatches, reports, consultation, compromise. But the main object of the telegram was achieved. As I said, the Government scored. That, reduced to simple narrative form, is I believe what the reasoned opinion of Hongkong holds to be the history of this, "apparently high-handed proceeding." We could not understand it, at the time, because its comparatively harmless nature was obscured in the first instance by the news agencies interpolating the word "forthwith," into the order to close the divans, and because of other obscurities. But that, it now seems clear, is why the ordinary steps were not taken; that, and not the reason given by the Under Secretary. This explanation at least fits the facts, and by the light of them the reasons given by the Under Secretary are seen to fall to the ground, and to lie, in a confused heap, forming

stumbling blocks, instead of "ordinary steps" towards making the policy of the Government palatable.

I cannot imagine a better way of making that policy unpalatable in this Colony than by offering reflections on our good name in defence of methods due to the immediate needs of Ministers created by the exigencies of debate. The policy will be made more or less palatable according as the belief gains or loses ground that it is dictated by higher motives than those which we associate with mere party strife. The more we are convinced of this the less, to adopt Sir Henry Blake's expression, shall we kick.

Of course, the Under Secretary could not be expected to explain the matter in this way. But surely he ought never to have come within measurable distance of setting up such a clumsy indictment to do duty as an excuse. No doubt it is open to anyone to contend that you cannot get a reasoned opinion from any large number of people. But I submit that it could only be averred of us in the sense in which it would be true of almost any community. In one sense it would be true of London or Liverpool, Manchester or Glasgow. But I think that no politician would be likely to make a similar remark about the inhabitants of any English, Scotch or Irish town. He would be likely to hear about it if he did. Are we to conclude that because we are so far away our susceptibilities need not be so carefully considered? Does consideration vary with the distance? This would be an unfortunate impression for any Under Secretary of State for the Colonies to create. It might have been expected that he would be careful to avoid making remarks calculated to arouse resentment in even the most distant of the communities with which for a time he is to be officially connected. But perhaps we shall be told that he did not say it, that he said something quite different, that the reporter is to blame. Or, maybe, a meaning will be read into the text which will help the Under Secretary out. This has already been done by editors and others who like most of the rest of us here have found it, as an explanation, inexplicable. In the meantime as the statement stands reported in the columns of "The Times" for all men to read, it seems to me that it is the duty of the Unofficial Members of this Council to challenge it, and I therefore look to my colleagues to support me in voting for the resolution, which I have designed for that purpose, and which I now move.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK seconded the motion.

HIS EXCELLENCY With reference to the resolution moved by the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce, I would point out that *Hansard* for July 28th, of the Imperial Parliament, has not reached this Colony, and we have not therefore any authentic record of the actual words used by the Under Secretary for the Colonies. The resolution refers to reports in the local press. I am not aware whether any of these reports were copied from the verbatim shorthand notes in the House of Commons, but next to the Imperial *Hansard*, the authority which is usually accepted as the highest is the *Times* of London, and that report, as the hon. member pointed out, is a third person report, and does not purport to give the actual words used. However that may be, assuming the *Times* report to be fairly correct, I must say I did not place upon it when I read it quite the same interpretation as the hon. member who moved the resolution. The statement that it was impossible to obtain a reasoned opinion from Hongkong appeared to me to obviously mean that it was impossible to obtain it in the time which had elapsed between the succession of the new Secretary of State to office and the date on which the Colonial Estimates were brought forward in the House of Commons. The new Government assumed office on April 16th. The Colonial Estimates were to be debated on May 6th, and then, I presume, under instructions from the new Secretary of State for the Colonies, it had been decided that the presentment should be made of the policy of the reconstituted Cabinet. I don't therefore think that the phrase was intended to have the meaning that Hongkong was

incapable of giving a reasoned opinion, but rather that there was not time to get that reasoned opinion before the debate came on. Further, the statement made by the Under Secretary for the Colonies that he had done his best to ascertain the views of the people of Hongkong I confess I do not understand. I am unaware that any steps had been taken to obtain the views either of the Government or of the people of Hongkong prior to May 6th, but perhaps more light may be thrown upon this by some further communication from the Secretary of State, or perhaps, as the hon. member suggested, it may be that he is inaccurately reported. Later on Colonel Seely agreed with Mr. Lyttleton that the ordinary steps which are usually taken before making such an announcement consist of consulting the Government of the Colony concerned. He pledged the Government to act on the advice which they had obtained and would obtain from the Government. He believed he would be able to satisfy the House that the best opinion in Hongkong and the opinion of the Government coincided with the measures proposed. Since these measures, by the pledge already made, were to be based upon advice received from Hongkong, the remainder of his aspersions appears to me to follow more or less as a corollary. With the exception therefore of the statement to which I referred as being incompatible with facts so far as we at present know them, I consider the reply of the Under Secretary satisfactory. When I read it the meaning it conveyed to me was that the Under Secretary of State deemed that the statement of May 6th was somewhat premature owing to the exigencies of Home politics. He intended to assure the House that no steps would be taken to give effect to it without the advice of the Government, and pledged the Government that advice would be followed subject to the general policy of both sides of the House that opinion divisions should be closed. Before sitting down I wish to add that I personally most heartily endorse the words used by the hon. member speaking in to this resolution, that the higher the motive which has prompted the policy of the Government, the more we are convinced that that motive is based not on the exigencies of party politics, but on the best traditions of our country, the less likely we should be to kick and the more likely to heartily cooperate.

Hon. Mr. STEWART Your Excellency, I believe I have the right to reply. I only wish to say that I should have felt more confidence in the belief to which you have committed yourself, that it was not said, but for the experience of some of the other Colonies which one has heard and read about during the last few years. In this particular debate Mr. Lyttleton was referring to the treatment of certain other Colonies at the hands of ex Under Secretaries of State when he spoke of these Colonies "so far from receiving respectable treatment, these colonies have received in the House of Commons jeers and insults." I don't myself believe that this could possibly be so bad in our case. Still it creates a doubt, and a doubt which seems to me to make it advisable that we should kick against anything of that sort if anything of that sort is intended. As regards the argument that he meant there was no time to ascertain the views of the people, it seems rather to be begging the question, because our original protest was that they did not give us time. Singapore was approached previously, Ceylon considerably before that, and India well before that, so that, if I may be permitted to say so, and there really does not seem any other polite way out of it, the defence is a little lame. In any case an explanation that has itself to be explained away cannot, I think, be regarded as satisfactory. Therefore I do not propose to withdraw my motion.

The resolution was put and the division resulted as follows:

Ayes—Hon. Messrs. Shute, Stewart, Gresson, Wei Yuk, and Hon. Mr. Ho Kai.

Noes—Captain Superintendent of Police, Registrar General, Director of Public Works, Colonial Treasurer, Attorney General, Colonial Secretary, and the Officer Commanding. His Excellency The resolution is lost by seven to five.

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY QUESTIONED.

Hon. Mr. STEWART. - In proposing the second resolution which stands in my name I do not intend to say more than a very few words. The facts upon which it comments are common property and it is unnecessary to do more than recapitulate them briefly. Broadly speaking they may be recapitulated thus. Early in the second half of July a large number of notices were served upon property owners in the name of the Building Authority, calling upon them to execute various repairs. On the 11th July tremendous rains fell, causing considerable damage and making a large call upon the reserve labour resources of local contractors. While struggling with the extra work thus entailed the Colony was visited by a severe typhoon which impressed itself forcibly upon a great number of houses in the town, and left almost every house at the peak culling loudly, through broken windows and gaping roofs, for immediate repair. That was on the 27th July, as we all have reason to remember. From that time onwards for a month and more it was notoriously impossible to execute repairs with any degree of rapidity and it must have been the experience of everybody whose house or premises stood in need of mending that he had to wait. Nobody liked it, because several typhoons were distantly reported about this time and the prospect of being caught by one was, under the circumstances, distinctly disquieting. But most people took a reasonable view of the position and, realising that every nerve was being strained by the architects and contractors, put their tempers under restraint and exercised the virtue of patience. It was therefore with something like amazement that we read one day in the papers of the issue of a large number of summonses upon property owners for failure to carry out during this very period the former requirements of the Building Authority in the matter of repairs. I have been informed that as many as 99 were issued in one day calling upon property owners to appear at the Police Court. I think on the 21st August. It is just this kind of inconsiderate proceeding which rouses the ire of the general public and brings the Administration into disfavour. In particular it naturally arouses the ire of property owners and leads them to regard the Public Health Ordinances with something much stronger than disfavour. When the new Act was passed it was pointed out on all hands and in this Council that its success mainly depended upon the spirit in which its provisions were interpreted and the discretion with which they were applied. In the debate on the Third Reading I had the temerity to express the hope that the powers entrusted to the mysterious abstraction known as the Building Authority would be used with discretion. I understood Your Excellency to assure this Council and through this Council the community, that it was the Government's desire to avoid unnecessary friction in carrying out the provisions of the Act, and, Sir, the fact that on this matter being represented to you most of these summonses were promptly withdrawn, shows that you agreed with the general sense of the Community in thinking that they were unwisely issued. But that such things can happen in spite of the assurances of Your Excellency, and apparently without the knowledge and consent of the higher officials of the Government, suggests a weak link in the chain of responsibility, and with the idea of seeking to remedy this defect, in the only way that lies open to the Unofficial Members of this Council, namely by drawing particular attention to the weak spot, I move:—"That the members of this Council regret the recent action of the Building Authority in instituting on a large scale criminal proceedings against property

owners for failure to comply with the requirements of the law under circumstances which, in the majority of cases, rendered compliance impracticable."

Hon. Mr. SLADE.—I beg to second this resolution. The hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce has very fully dealt with the subject in his remarks, and there is no occasion for me to amplify them. Under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance as amended, very large powers were given to the Building Authority under which he could either strictly enforce the terms of the Ordinance or in the exercise of his discretion, grant certain modifications. This is the first instance which has come prominently before the public in which this discretion might very well have been wisely exercised, and it is disappointing to find that the Building Authority has not seen fit to use that power given to him. Moreover it does not inspire much confidence in the way in which we look for the Ordinance to be interpreted in the future. I know, Sir, it is your wish that this Ordinance should be interpreted liberally, and in a broad-minded manner. I can only hope some way will be found so that those who are directly connected with the administration of the Ordinance shall in future more effectively carry out your intentions.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS.—I beg to submit there are not sufficient grounds to justify the adoption of this resolution by this Council. In support of this I have had a statement prepared which has been laid before the Council. It shows the number of notices issued and the number that were complied with during the period to which these summonses referred to apply. It shows that, notwithstanding the rain storm and the typhoon, of the notices issued practically three-fourths were complied with and of those issued subsequent to the date of the typhoon quite two thirds were complied with. That, I think, disposes of the argument that it was impossible to get work of this kind carried out. If anything further was required in support of that I would point out that the period allowed in the case of those issued subsequent to the occurrence of the typhoon was less than that in the case of those issued prior to that date. The seconder of the resolution has referred to the large powers given to the Building Authority and to the powers of modification more particularly. This matter before the Council, I submit, Sir, has nothing to do with any powers of modification. The summonses related to matters which dealt with the sanitary maintenance of various properties. They did not deal with anything in which the Building Authority, myself, has power of modification. I would point out, Sir, that in no case, except in the course of a verbal conversation with Mr. Shelton Hooper, was any representation made to me that there was any difficulty in carrying out any of these notices. No one sent in any statement asking for a longer period in which to fulfil them, and no communication of any kind was received beyond the mere request of Mr. Hooper, that something might be done to stop for a period the issue of these notices. I therefore submit that there are no grounds for the adoption of this resolution.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON.—Sir, with reference to the remarks of the Hon. Director of Public Works, I should think that his own words are the strongest recommendation for the passing of this resolution. He gives figures which clearly state that the number of summonses issued and the number complied with, in spite of the very extraordinary times, is satisfactory. It seems to me therefore that in Hongkong, and I know it is so, everybody is extremely anxious to comply with all reasonable recommendations of the Building or any other authority, and this was done, as the Director of Public Works himself shows. He also referred to the fact that no direct communication was made to him or that he was not asked for any period of grace. I should say the answer to that is obvious. No such request was made to him because obviously nobody expected summonses at the that particular

period (Hear, hear). I think that is all I need say on that point, and it very much strengthens and not weakens the resolution as proposed.

The resolution was put, the official members voting against it and the unofficial members for it.

His EXCELLENCY declared the motion lost by seven votes to five.

RAILWAY BRIDGES.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.—I beg to ask the question standing in my name.

The question was—

"With reference to reports which have appeared in the local Press concerning the alleged unsatisfactory state of some of the stone railway bridges under construction in Kowloon and the New Territory, have the Government any information to impart?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied—Such information as the Government are able to give on this subject will presently be communicated to the Council in the Governor's Speech when introducing the Estimates.

THE ESTIMATES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Sir, I rise to move the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million five hundred and seventy thousand four hundred and twenty-seven dollars to the Public Service of the year 1909.

In connection with it I beg to lay on the table Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1909; Financial Statement in connection with the Estimates; Abstract showing differences between the Estimates for 1908-1909.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—Gentlemen, Before I deal with the Estimates for the coming year I will invite your attention to the Financial Statement in connection with them, which has been laid upon the table. From this you will see that the balance of Assets on December, 31st, 1907, stood at \$1,541,175, while the estimated balance on the 31st December, 1908, is \$961,126 only, owing to the fact that a debit balance of \$581,149 is anticipated to accrue from the working of the current year. I will first explain how this deficit—which is the excess of the revised estimate of expenditure over the revised estimate of revenue—has arisen. In fact since we anticipated a surplus of \$49,359 our total falling off really amounts to \$630,480. This large sum is in round figures accounted for as follows:—We expect to realise \$152,000 less revenue than we estimated for. There is an increase of about \$38,000 in the total of ordinary revenue, but a deficit of \$190,000 in land sales. The expenditure of the year is, on the other hand, about \$478,000 more than we estimated for. The chief items are as follows:—Contribution to Flood Relief Fund, \$30,000; Typhoon Damages, excess over estimate, exclusive of harbour—and inclusive of cost of labour and material due also to floods, \$101,600; (a) Balance of excess over savings Public Works Department \$8,400. (b) Spent on Typhoon Refuge and Causeway Bay, in excess of estimate, \$190,000; excess of expenditure over savings on Public Works Extraordinary, (Dredger \$165,000, and for deepening Causeway Bay \$10,000) \$68,000. Add to this loss on exchange, estimated at 2½ and 2¼, \$80,000, and we have a total of \$478,000.

As these are only approximate forecasts I do not trouble you with details of the excesses and savings either Public Works Recurrent or Public Works Extraordinary. The former, varying from year to year, sometimes showing a small excess, sometimes a small saving, cannot be estimated with exactitude. In the case of the latter, every excess on expenditure not estimated for has been fully explained to the Council and a vote taken for it at the time. The savings which have been effected have not been at the expense of the Law Courts and Post Office, which have been pushed on as fast as possible. They amount to \$35,000, of which the postponement of Queen's Statue Pier, and of part of the work of raising Des Voeux Road account for \$10,000 each, and cattle depôts for \$11,000, the remaining \$4,000 being on survey marks and filter beds. When

the year is completed and the accounts finally made up full information can be given on these matters.

The balance of assets at the close of 1907 stood at \$1,542,247, and this deficit will reduce them to \$961,126, which we anticipate will represent the amount of our reserves at the end of the current year. You will, no doubt, observe that out of the total sum which will have to be debited to the reserve, viz. \$581,000, about \$200,000 is on account of the typhoon refuge which, in my statement on the subject, I said we should have to charge partly against our Reserves. I trust that the remaining quarter of this year will show an improvement in revenue and that this estimated deficit may prove to be an excessive forecast.

ESTIMATES FOR NEXT YEAR.

I turn now to the estimates for next year. When I introduced the Estimates last year I had to express regret that the revenue showed a progressive decrease. I am glad to say that we anticipate that we shall realise in 1909 a somewhat larger total than the amount estimated for the current year. I refer, of course, to ordinary revenue, exclusive of special light dues, widows and orphans fund, and land sales. The estimated increase is \$125,806, of which about \$92,000 is accounted for by new sources of revenue or increases in the previous duties, etc. Nevertheless, there is a small increase of \$43,800 and I trust that this increase, however small, may be an augury that we have turned a corner and seen the worst year of the depression. Still I must remind you that our Estimated Revenue for 1909 is \$388,834 less than the realized ordinary revenue of 1907, itself a year of decline, by 2.7 from the previous year. In other words, the revenue for next year is \$568,374 less than 1906, which represents the high water mark of our prosperity. In the decennial period, however, previous to 1906, the gross revenue rose by the amazing figure of 289½ per cent—nearly treble—and we must not therefore regard it as too serious a matter that our estimates of revenue for next year show a decline of 8.6 from the highest we have realized. I have been speaking of ordinary revenue.

When we look at the figures for Extraordinary Revenue we see that Land Sales, from which we normally expect to realize about \$400,000, only realized \$159,750 in 1907, and we are only estimating \$110,000 in the current year. I have put the figure for 1909 at \$150,000, for I believe the barometer is pointing to better weather, and land sales are the index of our financial barometer. There are two other items under the head of estimated revenue for next year, and both merit a special reference: \$43,000 is set down as the product of the extra amount levied on shipping with the object of constructing the new typhoon refuge. This is appropriated to the work with an additional contribution from the Government, under Public Works Extraordinary. It represents not merely the product of the extra cent levied on ocean shipping but also the extra dues levied on day and night entries of river steamers. It is put under extraordinary revenue. The Secretary of State and War Office have agreed to exempt it from military contribution. There is also a sum of \$412,300 of which \$371,500 represents the invested capital taken over by the Government from the Widows and Orphans Fund, while \$40,800 represents the contributions during the year. The debate on the Ordinance which transferred this fund to the Government is too recent in your memories to need any detailed reference on this occasion. The sum of money which it places at the disposal of the Government is the capital fund, the interest on which in addition to the annual contributions goes to pay the annual charges for pensions. This sum of \$371,500 is therefore in the nature of a loan: viz. the interest upon it in future years in the form of pensions will have to be met out of current revenue. It should therefore theoretically be invested in some remunerative work which would benefit the Colony and at the same time produce a sum equivalent to the interest to meet the new charge upon the revenues. Seeing however that we have to meet a deficit this year larger than the capital sum, I would only have so treated it by imposing new taxation to the full amount

of this capital sum. I believe, and those whose advice I have sought, have urged upon me that to impose taxation at this moment when we are not yet free from the heavy depression which has so reduced our revenue would be a mistake. Nor is there adequate reason for supposing that such an increase of taxation would be permanently required. I have prepared therefore to include it in the estimate of available funds to meet next year's liabilities, as was done with the Praya Reclamation Fund, etc., but I feel it my duty to point out to you that it is, as I have said, in the nature of a loan to tide us over our difficulties and that we are liable for the interest upon it in the future and that the same applies to the annual contributions in so far as they exceed the liabilities of the pension list. These contributions aggregate \$40,800 while the pensions and expenses of the Fund are estimated in 1909 at \$9,500 and we are, moreover, relieved of the sum of \$18,500, \$500 being the interest we think payable on the fund and equalising of exchange, hitherto thrown under Miscellaneous Services. Our total liability therefore amounts to \$421,800. For so long as the pensions are less than the estimated annual liabilities, for so long are we living at the expense of posterity; though when the position is reversed, we have to provide the difference to make good the pensions out of our annual revenue. But I confess I do not look for any sympathy with posterity from the taxpayers of the present day who are sore put to it to meet the exigencies of the present depression, but I can find some justification in the reflection that we are to-day paying the full interest on the funds borrowed for railway construction instead of debiting it to capital account as is not unusually done. These general considerations are of such paramount importance in considering our yearly budget that I have not hesitated to occupy some time in discussing them.

ESTIMATE OF REVENUE.

I turn now to the Estimate of Revenue under its various heads. I do not propose to go into great detail in the matter for the printed estimates, with their fully explanatory notes and appendices, speak for themselves and are designed to give the fullest possible information of every increase, and decrease, both in revenue and in expenditure. It would be an insult to your intelligence and an unnecessary waste of time for me to repeat information already at your disposal. I have therefore confined my remarks to such points as I think may be of real use to you in studying the estimates placed before you. You will, I regret to say, note a decrease in the estimate of the amounts which are expected to be produced under most heads. This has necessitated the imposition of some few increased levies under certain heads, which after most careful consideration I have thought it possible to be. Such are the increased dues on lighters, cargo and water boats, an increase of \$17,000; and Emigration House while the operation of the Companies Local Register Act is estimated to bring in \$20,000. In spite of these new impositions the total under this head is still less by \$15,493 than the estimate for the current year. Stamp duties, due to depressed trade, are estimated to produce less than this year, but I am taking steps to ensure their more complete and thorough collection which will bring them up to the same total.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

You will observe that except for a small and negligible decrease in the divan licences no reduction has been made in the anticipated receipts from the opium trade. Any decrease therefore which may occur in consequence of the policy of His Majesty's Government remains unprovided for, and if there is no surplus at the end of 1902 they must be met by special taxation or from the colony's reserves, or in some other way. I am in correspondence with the Secretary of State on this subject but the investigations which have been conducted here have taken a long time and the question has not reached any final solution, so that it has been impossible for me to deal with it in the estimates. If there had been any surplus however small, of revenue over expenditure it would have been incumbent upon me to consider whether a part of it should not be set aside to meet any possible liability on this account instead of devoting it to public works,

but as a matter of fact, after providing for only such works as we are already committed to and a few minor works of urgency, there is not only no surplus at all but an excess of expenditure over revenue of \$72,170. In these circumstances the question of the diminution of receipts from opium in consequence of the telegrams which I received from the Secretary of State and read to this Council does not arise in connection with the estimate, and in consequence is not directly involved in the Bill now before you. I hope however at an early date to lay papers before you and to make a statement on this subject which will afford the unofficial members any opportunity they may desire of expressing their views.

IMPROVING SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Class 2 of Revenue shows an increase of \$41,404 which would have been augmented to \$58,404 if the \$17,000 for postal transit charges referred to had not been eliminated. This sum is properly a departmental credit under the new Colonial Regulations and has therefore been deducted from postal expenditure, instead of being shown as a credit under the revenue subject to the military contribution. There is an increase of \$5,000 under Gunpowder Storage, due to a fuller use being made of the very fine depot at Green Island which cost this colony a large sum of money and has been little used in consequence of the dangers to private ware houses which had been licensed. In order to meet the cost of the new emigration sub-department in the Registrar General's office, and also to meet our needs for general purposes, the fees for the medical examination of emigrants have been increased and this is calculated to yield an increase of \$22,000. There is also an increase of fees in the Government schools and Technical Institute and this is estimated to bring in altogether an increase of \$21,650, but this increase cannot be said to have been imposed for revenue purposes. It is rather a natural result of increased facilities for education which have resulted in a great increase in the number of pupils, and it must be regarded as a set-off against increased expenditure on education. The decrease in the fees for medical treatment, owing to fewer patients in hospital, is the one solitary decrease upon which I can congratulate the Council. It is I am compelled to add, partly, due to the opening of the Matilda Hospital and the decrease of paying patient. The more we spend on training nallahs and sanitation, etc., the more we may expect to see our revenue from this source decline and the health of the colony improve. The large rise in timber sales, \$8,700, is due to the inauguration of felling operations which, now that the timber has matured in certain areas, has become possible. The scheme is to fell strips or blocks of timber annually during a cycle of 25 to 30 years, so that when the last strip or block has been felled the earliest in rotation is again ready. The increased estimate from this source should therefore be permanent, but I do not feel certain that it has not been an optimistic estimate. The increase in sales of vaccine is one which I am especially glad to note since it indicates an increase of vaccination among the Chinese.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

In Class III there is nothing very special to note except the satisfactory collection of the rent in the New Territory. During the year I have been in the Colony I have found no subject of greater interest than the land settlement in the New Territories and I have been impressed alike with the ability shown by the present Assistant Colonial Secretary in the original assessment and the tact, energy and discrimination of his successors, Messrs Messer and Halifax, who have made the collection such a success. The revenue derived is many times greater than that levied by the Chinese Government prior to 1898. Yet it is paid with alacrity and has been so justly assessed that no hardship or discontent is felt by the people. It is well, perhaps, for this Council to have occasionally the opinion of a Governor who comes new to the Colony and has had experience of works of this class and who can estimate the value that it owes to the ability and work of some of its junior officials. Neither the principal nor the annual contributions to the Widows' and Orphans'

Fund in Class V are subject to Military Contribution and therefore they appear under the head of Extraordinary Revenue or "below the line" as the phrase is. The total estimate of revenue, ordinary and extraordinary, stands at \$6,708,996, an increase of \$481,106 over gross expenditure for last year.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURE.

I come now to the estimate of expenditure for 1909. This stands at \$6,781,166, an increase of \$602,635 over the estimates for last year which, in round figures, is accounted for as follows:—The fall in exchange has had so large a share in our deficits in the current year that it means an increase, in salaries only, as compared with the total of for 1908 of \$156,273, new posts \$13,129, incremental rises \$2,480, increases of salary and allowances \$10,677, less small savings on various items \$5,523, equals \$40,863.

Capital expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary \$219,700, less a saving on Public Works Recurrent \$4,500 and of \$47,950 on special expenditure, accounts for \$167,250. The military contribution is increased by \$25,161 and pensions by \$35,000, making together \$60,161 while the additional interest on loans or the railway comes to \$178,083 making a total of \$602,635. The loss by the fall in exchange is not of course confined to the items of salaries alone, but all payments have to be made in sterling and are consequently responsible for a great part of the increase under Public Works Extraordinary, because last year, on the best expert advice, we felt justified in taking the rate of exchange at 2/- for sterling salaries and at 2/1 for all other items. I have been advised that it is not safe to base our calculations for next year at a higher uniform rate than 1/9. The increases in every department are due entirely to this cause. In the Registrar General's department it has become necessary to create a small emigration sub-department in order to deal with the number of emigrants which had increased by 34 per cent in the ten years prior to 1907 and by 16 per cent over the previous year 1906, in consequence of the provision of the new ordinance which affords increased protection to assisted emigrants. The examination of this class is now transferred from the Harbour Office to the Registrar General's department, and the cost of the sub-department is \$5,123, which is very much more than covered by the additional fees for medical inspection. In the Treasury audit there is nothing special to note. Under the Post Office you will observe that in spite of the reduction of mail subsidy by £1,256 there is an increase of \$8,556, due to fall in exchange, while transit payments are increased by \$40,000. The question as to whether the receipts from postal agencies conducted by this Colony in China should be liable to military contribution is still under reference to the Secretary of State. The Imperial Treasury and the Municipality of Teintsin have between them guaranteed to refund the estimated loss on the working of that agency for the coming year, and the Post Office will, therefore, I am glad to say, remain open. In the Harbour department a special sum of \$2,550 has been provided for a buoy for the Cast rocks, and some small expense is incurred on account of the new light to be placed on Blackhead's hill. These steps will, it is hoped, assist navigation in the Harbour of which complaint was made when the cruiser "Flora" went aground. They are the result of correspondence with the Admiral and the report of the Special Committee. Regarding the Observatory, I undertook last year to inquire very specially into the efficiency of this department. The Director assures me that his relations with other observatories are most cordial and that he has the best of instruments. He is the only person who can express an opinion on the latter point, but in order to ensure both these points I purpose that after the typhoon season is past he shall visit the observatories at Manila and Shanghai and see their instruments and get into close touch with the directors. Under "Miscellaneous," Government is received of a total payment of \$10,000 on account of interest on the Widows and Orphans' fund. The sum of \$36,000 is retained on the Estimates

for the redemption of subsidiary coinage pending a final decision on this question. Considerable increases in salaries payable in sterling are due to fall in exchange. Under the vote for Land Office and Registry a new post has been created, and provision is made for the salary of a deputy official who will also undertake trade marks registration. The necessity for this extra assistance has been strongly urged by the Chief Justice, and, after careful inquiry, I have satisfied myself that it is necessary.

THE JUDICIARY.

Immediately on my arrival the Chief Justice represented to me the urgent necessity of a third judge, both in order to lighten the work of the judges and in order to form a more effective Court of Appeal. I found that my predecessor had not considered that the necessity had been demonstrated and that the Secretary of State, after a full review of the argument put forward by the Chief Justice, had finally negatived the proposal. I felt myself that the existing Appeal Court, consisting of two judges only, of whom the Chief Justice had a casting vote, must necessarily be a farce, since it practically prohibited an appeal from a decision of the Chief Justice, unless it was intended to take the case to the Privy Council, a course prohibitive to any but very wealthy litigants. In this view I was supported by the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge, the Attorney General and the members of the Bar, but, like my predecessor, I have found the general opinion to be that, except for the purposes of an Appeal Court, a third judge was not immediately required. The cost involved, estimated at \$25,000 and all the difficulty of finding accommodation pending the completion of the new Law Courts were additional reasons for deferring such an appointment. I suggested therefore that the judge of the Shanghai Court should visit Hongkong twice in a year and sit as an Appeal Judge here. In this proposal the Secretary of State and the Foreign Office have agreed, but as I have only recently received the telegram, no provision appears in the Estimates. The cost is small \$275. We must, I think, regard this as only a temporary measure, for appeal work is sure to increase and will take up more time than the Shanghai Judge can spare. It will, I think, bridge over the time which must elapse before the new Law Courts are open, when, I hope, we will be in a position to afford a third judge.

Under Judicial and Legal, I have but few words to say. Under Police, as also under Harbour Master's Department, there are a number of entries referring to boat painting. This is consequent on a change I have recently made by which Government officers are now responsible for the painting of numbers on junks, and the duties have been properly organised. Under "Medical," provision is made for taking on the private nursing staff which will henceforth be incorporated with the Government Hospital staff. I have thought it unnecessary to replace the present assistant bacteriologist, who desires to resign when his term of service expires in March, by a fully qualified Medical Officer. The other charges of this Institution which have been calculated on a somewhat liberal scale have also been considerably reduced.

THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The re-organization of the Sanitary Department consequent on the passing of the recent Bill is fully set out in the Appendix and the general merits were fully described by me in introducing that Bill. I have thought it better to incorporate the Plague staff and Sanitary staff under one establishment, since the distinction was purely artificial, and those who have hitherto been designated as Plague staff are available for other duties in connection with plague or otherwise which may be assigned to them by the Head of the Department. A large increase, \$4,000, has been provided for rat poison. The total expenditure on the Sanitary department shows a saving of \$37,511, in spite of the loss by exchange and the creation of the new post of the Head of the Sanitary Department, against which must be set the cost of the Building Authority's staff and charges transferred to Public Works Department.

FORESTRY.

In the Forestry Department a Chinese head gardener has been employed in order to admit of the Assistant Superintendent devoting more time to the forestry of the Colony from which we hope to obtain a revenue, and in order that he may be more competent to assist the Superintendent in that department when he is away.

EDUCATION.

In the Education vote there are a few new posts created for assistant masters or pupil teachers especially at Saiyungpung and Wansai schools, to meet the large increase of scholars which last year necessitated an expenditure to enlarge the premises of these Government schools. Three small schools are closed. Tungshungchow is amalgamated with Wansai, Yuen Long with Pingshau and Shaukiwan, which has never been opened, does not appear to be required as yet. A new one has been founded at Cheung Chau at the request of the people. There are various retrenchments, but a large increase of the sum payable under the Grant Code, \$9,378, an increase in the cost of the Technical Institute, as we propose to call the Evening Continuation Classes in future, from \$8,051 to \$12,605, together making a sum of \$13,933. Both increases denote a sound progress in education. The increase on the whole vote for Education over the last vote, apart from what is due to fall in exchange, is \$19,585, which is more than covered by the increase in fees, \$21,650. The total spent on education stands at \$232,139, namely 3.83 per cent of the ordinary revenue, as against an average for the last seven completed years of 2.47 per cent, and an estimated average of 3.41 per cent for the current year. If we, however, deduct from the expenditure on education the amount realized by fees, these averages become 1.777 for the seven years, 2.477 for the current year, and 2.63 for next year—the estimated revenue for 1909 being \$72,350 and the net cost of education \$159,789. The comparisons, however, are vitiated by the varying rates of exchange, and if the increase in the vote for 1909 which is due to this cause were eliminated you would find that the percentage of net cost to ordinary revenue is almost precisely the same as this year, namely 2.4. It is interesting to contrast these figures with the figures for the United Kingdom. Lord Onslow, speaking in the House of Lords on June 24, stated that in twenty years the expenditure on education has sextupled and is now nearly twenty millions. In the same period the amount raised locally for education had increased by 173 per cent. Twenty millions is 12.8 per cent of the revenue of the United Kingdom, as against our 2.6 per cent. We may, I think, feel that this most important of all the functions of civilized government is well attended to in this Colony, and that the last two years have shown therein a marked advance both in the number of pupils, and in the standard of education—of which the success of the Technical Institute is not the least valuable. The increase in attendance is not confined to the Government school but is common to all. We are gradually providing dual desks for all schools, avoiding overcrowding, and a considerable saving has been effected by making these in Hongkong.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The vote for Defence shows a small increase for the Military Contribution of \$25,161 owing to the improvement in our estimate of revenue for 1909 as compared with our estimate for this year. The incidences of this contribution does not however fall as Mr. Chamberlain desired it should, so that in times of increased prosperity the Colony should be able to devote a larger sum to its defence and in times of financial difficulty it should contribute less. The estimates before us are a good example of this; for while our revenue is estimated to increase by \$125,806 only, upon which we pay the additional cost I have referred to, our expenditure, less the Military Contribution, is increased by \$357,774, owing to the fall in exchange and the other reasons. I have already explained that although the balance of ordinary revenue and expenditure is \$447,000 to the b.d. we have an increased contribution to pay. It has seemed to me that a better means to attain the object Mr. Chamberlain had in view would be to take the difference between ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure, which together with

any estimated revenue from land sales, is the margin or balance which we have to devote to capital expenditure in Public Works Extraordinary and to devote half it to the Military Contribution and half to Public Work extra ordinary. If that system were applied to the present year when we have a heavy automatic increase of expenditure to face, this contribution would be reduced from \$1,210,739 to \$782,934, which would only be 12.6 of the ordinary revenue, instead of 20 per cent., but in prosperous years it might similarly exceed 20 per cent. There are however serious difficulties, as I recognise, in the way of this proposal, and I have not as yet decided to propose it to the Secretary of State. The honourable member who represents the Chamber of Commerce, (Hon. Mr. Hewett) whose absence I should regret to-day were he not so worthily represented by the honourable member on my right (Hon. Mr. Stewart), made some very strong remarks last year on the subject of this Contribution. He described the attitude of the Imperial Government as that of a highwayman presenting a pistol at the head of the Colony and ordering us to stand and deliver 20 per cent of our revenue. He based his opposition upon the assumption that the garrison was maintained here chiefly for Imperial purposes. To those remarks I did not personally refer for I felt that a question of such importance should only be approached after a fuller knowledge and investigation than it had been possible for me to devote to it after so short a residence in the Colony as I then possessed. I approached the matter with an open mind, possibly with a bias in favour of the view that the Contribution weighed too heavily, and I was fully prepared if my examination of the matter should confirm that view to appeal to the Imperial Authorities for its reduction; but I cannot say that is the conclusion to which I have been led. What are the facts? Roughly speaking we pay one-third to one-half of the total cost of the defence forces. Armaments are provided by the Imperial Government. It is absurd to contrast our position with that of the Straits, who, for the last year or two have paid the extra cost of their defence. Towards the Navy, to whose protection we owe our existence, we contribute nothing. It is the Navy which protects its docks and its coaling stations and not the comparatively small land force here. The Colonies and Protectorates in Africa with which I have been associated very many years bear the entire cost of their defence, though their frontiers are coterminous with those of European Continental nations. In the event of war they would have to bear the extra onus of their defence.

The amount they pay out of their revenues to defensible forces is, I think, more like fifty per cent. than twenty per cent. in some cases, but it is difficult to arrive at an exact figure from published statistics. I think the Imperial Government could not be accused of injustice if it said to us to-morrow: "You grumble at the cost of the defence forces and works provided. We will withdraw them and look after our docks and coaling stations ourselves and you can furnish your own defence." What would be the result? It would cost us two or three times as much as we now pay. Look at the enormous value of the material property—belonging both to the Colonial Government and to private citizens here: what proportion does our military contribution bear to that capital value regarded as an insurance against war risks? Will you put it as high as one per cent. All the nations of the world are groaning under the burden of the cost of defence, and we cannot claim exemption. Honourable members are aware that a considerable section of our fellow countrymen complain that the expenditure on the army and navy has of recent years been unduly reduced, yet I see from the financial statements of the last two completed years that 53 and 41 per cent of the total estimated revenue of the United Kingdom was spent on defence, and in that sum paid by the British taxpayer is included from one-half to two-thirds of the cost of the defences of Hongkong. We pay only 2½ per cent of our revenue, and I must remind you that if our geographical position renders us peculiarly vulnerable to attack and increases the cost of defence, it is this very good geographical position to which we owe our prosperity. It is

this geographical position which has converted a barren rock with a revenue of a few score dollars into the largest port in the world, with a revenue of sixty-seven million dollars and an invested capital in material assets of perhaps thirty or forty million sterling. I will not pursue this subject further to-day for it is one on which very much could be said, and I have still a good deal to say on other subjects. Moreover, I am still engaged in obtaining precise figures. My object in alluding to it is in order to prove to the unofficial members that no point which has been previously brought forward has failed to receive my most earnest and careful investigation and consideration.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department shows a considerable increase mainly due to the effect of the fall in exchange which increases the dollar salaries of the large British staff engaged in this department by \$28,644. With the exception of the increase in the Building Authority staff, transferred from the Sanitary Department, of \$7,605, and the creation of the posts of two native surveyors at \$360 there are no changes of importance. The Public Works revenue shows a decrease in spite of the extensions and extra work on roads, drains, buildings, etc., which year by year tend to increase the cost of maintenance.

LOANS.

The charges on loan accounts show a large increase, due partly to the fall in exchange, but principally to our borrowing on account of railway construction. In Appendix 2 will be found an estimate of the cost and a statement of staff.

THE RAILWAY.

It is estimated that by the end of this year the total expenditure incurred on the railway will have reached the sum of \$6,258,075, while the expenditure in 1909 is estimated at \$3,280,668, leaving \$591,545 for expenditure in 1910 to complete, with the exception of the items not estimated, and of which we can form no estimate until we know our position in regard to the Canton section. On February 6th last I made a full statement to the Council on the subject of the railway, both in regard to construction and finance, and I invited any questions that honourable members might desire to put to me so that I might afford any additional information in my power. Apparently my statement was sufficiently explicit and detailed, for no member asked for any additional information. I have not much to add to-day. Progress has been well maintained. The tunnel leading from north and south has now reached a total of 4,603 feet out of 7,156 or 64 per cent. Progress under the able superintendence of Mr. Waite has till recently been at the rate of nearly ten feet per day. Latterly, exceedingly hard rock has been encountered and this has reduced the rate of progress by about a half, and greatly increased the cost. The chief resident engineer anticipates an excess on the estimated expenditure on the tunnel which will absorb the saving on earth work. I hope that this heading may be through before the middle of next year. The lining, including such portions as do not need to be lined, is computed at 2,340 feet, viz., one half of the distance reached by the heading. At the end of last year the proportion was only one quarter. The tunnel practically began on the 1st January, 1907, and the average progress per week was 5.8 feet, whereas from January 1st this year the average weekly progress has been 9.76. The proportion of lining to heading at the end of last year was a fourth, and it is now a half. Such difficulty has been experienced in number 8 tunnel near Tai-po. There, continued land slides undid the work as fast as it was done. This has now been overcome and the work is going on well.

The Chief Resident Engineer reports fair progress in earth work, but not so good as he had hoped, owing to unexpected hardness of rock and to labour difficulties. He has however now succeeded in letting several large contracts to reliable contractors, and he anticipates a saving on the whole vote. I regret to say that I have felt much anxiety regarding the foundations of some of the bridges, and in order to reassure myself I appointed the Director of Public Works and Mr. Williams, lately in the charge of the Naval Dock, as an expert committee to inspect them and report to me. I

have forwarded the report, with the observations of the Chief Resident Engineer, to the Secretary of State for communication to the Civil Engineers who are responsible to this Government for the efficiency of the construction in all technical matters. I have not yet received their reply, and meanwhile I directed work on the bridges to be arrested. It is only fair to the Chief Resident Engineer to add that he is confident that the bridges are sound.

I am glad to be able to inform you that much better progress has been made since the date of my speech on the railway by the contractors for the reclamation and heavy cutting between Kowloon and the southern mouth of the tunnel. Mr. Griffin, on behalf of Messrs. Leigh and Orange, has devoted much of his personal time and attention to the work, and good progress has been made with the sea wall and reclamation. The work on the whole appears to be proceeding approximately at contract rate, but the initial loss of about five months cannot be made up. This matter is forming the subject of amicable negotiation between the Government and the contractors, and I hope that we shall shortly come to an arrangement whereby the dates of completion shall be extended with reciprocal benefits to the Government and an increased penalty for overtime. I am convinced that this arrangement is the best that can be come to, and it is based on the advice of the hon. Director of Public Works, and is assented to by the Chief Resident Engineer. From the best information at my disposal, I think I can with some confidence assure you that our section will be open to traffic at least as soon, and probably much sooner than the Canton section which adjoins ours at Sam Chun; and I hope that a temporary line will be in operation some time before the whole line is finally completed, which will meet all the requirements of local traffic, probably by March 1910. Papers were laid on the Council table early this year detailing progress to the end of 1907 and a similar report will be submitted at the close of the present year. I am not at present in a position to say anything about the negotiations for a joint working agreement further than that the Chief Resident Engineer are open to settle such matters as types of rolling stock, points of junction, etc., as demand immediate solution.

HOSPITALS.

Under grants to charitable institutions there is an increase of \$2,000 to the Tung Wah Hospital in Victoria. This is to assist the institution to extend its sphere of utility. A large sum has been subscribed by the Chinese community for the new small pox hospital for which Government has granted a site beyond Kennedy to wn. I trust that this institution will effect a most valuable service by meeting the prejudice of the Chinese to conveyance of their small-pox patients over the water to the "Hygeia," and that it will result in the complete cessation of dumping the corpses of those who have died of this disease in public places, and so greatly increasing its prevalence towards which so much has been done by the institution of street committees.

Similarly the Tung Wah hospital has projected a scheme for creating a plague ward as an annex to this hospital, and from this and the district hospitals and dispensaries I look for similar results. It is by measures such as these that I look for real reform in sanitation, and by which we shall secure the whole hearted co-operation of the Chinese, and finally remove the fear engendered by methods which the poorer classes did not understand, and dreaded more than the disease itself. With the removal of that fear we shall no doubt see a material benefit as well as a moral and administrative one in the rise in value of house property and the restoration of confidence. The need of an institution similar to the Tung Wah Hospital on the other side of the water has long been greatly felt, and a substantial subscription has now been raised to build and maintain it. We propose to give \$8,500 per annum towards this project, and as it is anticipated that the hospital will be open before the end of next year, \$1,500 has been provided as our subscription. The only other new grant is Miss Eyre's refuge, a small sum of \$120 only, which has been set down rather with the object of securing Government supervision than with a view to the actual money value of the grant. The Bishop of Victoria has placed this

institution under his patronage, and a committee has been organized. If the intentions of the promoters are fully carried out it is probable that I may ask this Council to slightly increase the subscription in a future year.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

I come now to Public Works Extraordinary. The amounts set down for the Law Courts, Post Office, and Typhoon Refuge are as much as it is estimated can be spent during the coming year in pushing forward these works as fast as possible. The sum entered for the last named includes the special fund raised by the increased light dues. The \$2,000 provided for the extension of the Public Works offices will complete that work, as also the sum voted for Kowloon market, which is a remunerative work. The staff quarters at Tai-po will also be completed. The vote for roads in the New Territory, \$25,000, is somewhat increased, and as soon as our financial position allows of it, I hope that we may be still further able to increase this vote. The New Territories yield in all a revenue of upwards of \$200,000 exclusive of land sales, and it is only reasonable and just that a fair sum should be spent annually in improving their communications (hear hear) which are exceedingly bad. We hope to make a road from Castle Peak Bay to Pingshan on the lines described in my speech last year, to be widened and improved later and extended to Tai-po, and ultimately to Shataukok. The need for roads in New Kowloon is not less urgent in order especially that a system of tramways may be started as soon as possible, the extension of Robinson Road and the road crossing it at right angles and giving access to the new railway station from Yau-mati (Argyll Street) are especially urgent. The amount for raising the level of Des Vaux Road is the same as last year. This vote is rendered necessary by the advent of the railway and the new reclamation, and will effect a great improvement. For gullies a sum of only \$2,000 is voted as against \$10,000 last year, and though it is possible to spend more on such a scheme it may fairly be said that all that is immediately necessary will be completed. The same may be said of the flushing tanks and drain pipes. The forming and kerbing of streets is a task imposed upon us year by year in consequence of the extension of buildings, and there are streets which must on this account be put in order at Quarry Bay, and Reclamation Street, Kowloon, at Wong-mei-chung and elsewhere, and which can no longer be delayed. The estimate for this alone is \$27,500. Under "training nullahs," the most important and urgent work is extension of the nullah in Waterloo Road, Kowloon, necessitated by the railway. The pier at Green Island is urgently needed to give access to the gunpowder depot; the other can afford to wait. Blake Pier shelter will be completed, as also the many filer beds, but the Kowloon waterworks scheme will still require some additional expenditure. Funds have not admitted of our beginning the Queen's Statue pier this year, and I regret that it is impossible to commit ourselves to a work of such magnitude in the present state of our finances. The dredging of Causeway Bay is a work which I regard as of great importance and urgency. We expect to have spent \$4,000 on it by the end of this year and \$2,000 is provided for next year which, I am told, is as much as can be spent looking to the fact that the work is largely tidal and cannot be expeditiously completed. The cost is estimated at about \$52,000 and it should be completed in 1910. During the year an opportunity occurred for acquiring the buildings at Lai-chikok which had previously been used as a coolie depot for South African coolies on extremely advantageous terms for a quarantine station. The small-pox outbreak on the *Hong Bee* showed the urgent necessity of having such a station to supersede the system of hiring junks on which to isolate contacts. It is, of course, impossible in such circumstances to detect incipient cases, while the junks become agents for disseminating infection far and wide, and their crews are exposed to the disease. Moreover, in case of a typhoon the loss of life might be appalling, and the infected junks could not be refused shelter in a crowded refuge. Cases of epidemic disease on board ships in the harbour are fortunately rare, and it is fourteen years since the last occurred. An American friend who was prone to carry a

revolver on when occasions the weapon appeared to me to be more decorative than needful, replied in answer to my query that he considered a revolver was not a thing one wanted very often, but when one did want it one wanted it very badly. That is how I feel in regard to the question of a quarantine station. Its cost was formerly variously estimated at about \$70,000 but we secured the buildings for \$3,000, and with the expenditure of a sum of \$8,500 this year, and of a sum given in the estimates, \$7,500 to put them in proper repair, and provide police quarters and fencing, we shall, I hope, have a quarantine station capable of holding 1600 persons well fenced in and isolated and in the very site selected for such a purpose at an aggregate cost of \$19,000. I think the Council may be congratulated on the bargain. A sum of \$21,400 is provided for the resumption of a road leading from Queen's Road East to Praya East. This is in connection with a scheme proposed by Government for rebuilding an extended area in this direction, which will be a very great improvement from a sanitary point of view, and will provide a new access to the Praya in a direction where it is very much needed. If Government had refused to co-operate, the whole scheme, which is a valuable one, would have fallen through, and the present insanitary crowding would have been perpetuated by new buildings. The matter therefore was urgent. The new works undertaken are few and not costly. Necessity exists to provide the Land Office at Taipo with offices and a safe place for the storage of a mass of records which are irreplaceable and very valuable. The cost is estimated at \$10,000. No 2 Police station is inadequate to its requirements, and adjoining native houses have had to be hired at considerable annual cost to Government and great inconvenience to the police. Honourable members may recollect that there is attached to this station a yard space and a number of small out-houses, and it appeared to me that by the demolition of these and the joining up of the house to its neighbour a cheap and effectual means of meeting the requirements will be effected. The cost is estimated at \$13,000. A short stretch of road near Victoria Gap to open up some new residential sights will cost \$4,300 and a similar sum is required for the construction of a stair case from the ball room at Government House for the convenience of guests on occasions such as the King's birthday ball. This will save the annually recurring cost of constructing a temporary bamboo stairway, and will be a permanent and artistic addition to the fine house which the Colony boasts as Government House. An additional room is urgently required at Queen's College at a cost of \$8,000, and \$2,000 is set down for a market at Aberdeen which is much required and will be remunerative. The total estimate for Public Works Extraordinary stands at \$1,042,600, and the estimate of expenditure thus exceeds the estimate of revenue by \$72,170. It is however, certain that we cannot again have a fall of 4d in the rate of exchange, which has been the main cause of the deficit this year. And we may, I think, anticipate with reasonable confidence the usual surplus of revenue over expenditure to cover the small excess. Should it, however, be otherwise, and this sum of \$72,170 be chargeable to the accumulated reserves, it would result in our balance at the end of 1909 being \$886,956, and since more than this sum of \$72,000 will have been spent on the typhoon refuge (which it was proposed to charge in part against the reserves; a proposal approved by the Secretary of State) the small excess of expenditure over revenue is defensible. I think it is more especially so when I tell you that the estimates of revenue have been framed on the basis of the results of a year of extreme depression in trade.

THE OUTLOOK.

I trust that in this matter we have touched low water mark, and that the year 1909 will prove to be a year of revival of trade and return of prosperity. In such matters I believe that the wish is the father to the fact as well as to the thought. I have read with pleasure the hopeful anticipations expressed by the Chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in this connection, and they do not stand alone. I observe that in the Imperial Maritime Customs Commissioner at Canton's report, the trade of Canton in 1907, both exports and imports, was better than in any

previous year, and is increasing. Looking at the returns I find that the exports to China from Hongkong were in 1904, 121½ million dollars; in 1905, 121½ million dollars, in 1906, 124 million dollars, and in 1907, 145½ million dollars. Then we read of the establishment of new factories at Canton and the development of mining, all of which should bring increased business to Hongkong, and trade is increasing. The silk crop of 1907 was a record one, and the increase in imports (cottons, kerosene, machinery and paper) showed an increase of 4½ million taels. The Kowloon Commissioner reports in the same sense. Junk trade shows a net increase of twenty per cent. in spite of many special drawbacks in 1907. He, too, anticipates a brighter outlook, and reports an increase of revenue which is the second best on record. The increase of imports and exports from Hongkong is put at 10½ million taels, and the tonnage of Chinese vessels is larger than in any year since 1893, and duties are larger than any for nine years except 1901. The prospects of the crops in India are, I am told, good, and if no unforeseen "contretemps" occurs, India may again enter the silver market as purchaser, and the exchange may improve. The crisis in America which augured this wave of depression which has troubled the waters even of the Far East, appears to have passed, and the outlook is promising. The godowns of Shanghai and Hongkong which a year ago were full of unsaleable goods are now for the most part empty, and business men are looking for openings. Money is plentiful, and investors only want encouragement to embark on new ventures. All this is no doubt the roseate view, and we can all find arguments to meet every hopeful forecast. I pretend to no commercial acumen, and I have no expert knowledge of the intricate causes upon which the rise and fall of the commercial barometer depends, but I believe that optimism is better for human nature than pessimism, and is more likely to beget prosperity, so I give you my optimistic forecast and you can criticise it if you will, at your leisure. (Laughter and Applause).

THE EVIDENCE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the First reading of a Bill entitled: An Ordinance to extend a certain definition in the Imperial Act styled the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act 1907.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the bill was read a first time.

REGULATION OF THEATRES.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the First reading of a Bill entitled: An Ordinance for regulating Theatres and other places of public resort.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the bill was read a first time.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council will now adjourn until the 8th October, when we will take the second reading of the appropriation bill.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$525) in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department, Other Charges, for the following items:—

Language study allowance...	\$ 75
Head stones	450

Total \$525

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand six hundred and sixty-three dollars (\$3,663) in aid of the vote, Education, Other Charges, Grants, Principal Grants under Grant Code.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, E.—Steam launches, Other Charges, Repairs.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and fifty Dollars (\$150) in aid of the vote, Botanical and Forestry Department, Other Charges, Library.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred Dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, B.—Fire Brigade, Other Charges, Repairs to Engines and Plant.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred Dollars (\$100) in aid of the vote, Observatory, Other Charges, Laboratory Expenses.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Six hundred and thirty-four Dollars (\$634) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Miscellaneous, Compensation for the resumption of certain Lots in Damaroon District No. 183.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Five hundred and ninety-four Dollars (\$594) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, A.—Harbour Office, Other Charges, Life Saving Apparatus.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Printing and Binding.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and two dollars (\$302) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Miscellaneous, Compensation for resumption of Lot No 3,212 in Survey District IV, New Territories.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred Dollars (\$100) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, A.—Staff, Other Charges, Health Officer of Port, Repairs to Launch.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Six thousand eight hundred Dollars (\$6,800) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Recurrent, for the following items:—

Buildings.

Maintenance of Buildings,	\$3,000
Communications	3,000
Maintenance of Telegraphs,	3,000
Maintenance of Telegraphs in New	800
Territories,	800
Total	\$6,800

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred dollars (\$100) in aid of the vote, Colonial Secretary's Department and Legislature, Other Charges, Newspapers, Periodicals, &c.

THE CHARTERED BANK DIVIDEND.

The local office of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China on Sept. 24th, received a telegram from the London office advising that an interim dividend has been declared for the past half year to 30th June, 1908, at 13 per cent. p.a. free of income tax.

Cholera has caused a stir in army circles, says a Manila paper, causing the death of an enlisted man in the 26th Infantry and a delay of three days in the departure of the of the transport "Sheridan" for the United States. The "Sheridan" is now in quarantine at Mariveles because Frank Gilbert, a former soldier, developed cholera on the way down the bay and was removed from the ship as soon as she arrived at Mariveles. Private Christian, Company 1, 26th Infantry, died at the division hospital on Monday evening, having been removed to that place from the Cuartel de Espana where he was seized with the disease after spending the better part of the day in Pasay and the surrounding country.

A wedding which attracted no little attention was celebrated at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, on September 23rd, the contracting parties being Mr. Carlos Augusto de Rosa and Miss Aida Maria Alves. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. A. Fioletti. The bridesmaids were Miss Lola Gutierrez (cousin) and Miss Leonor de Rosa (sister), while the bridegroom was supported by Mr. J. L. de S. Alves (uncle of the bride) and Prof. Emil Dahan, beng (uncle of the bridegroom). A reception was afterwards held at which Mr. J. L. de S. Alves proposed the health of the newly married couple.

THE BUILDING COLLAPSE AT YAUMATI.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp, sitting as Coroner and Messrs. F. Ans'in, Hugh Dinning and G. G. Catchick (jurors) an inquiry was held concerning the deaths of six Chinese who were killed as the result of a collapse which occurred at No. 36, Portland Street, Yaumati, during the typhoon of 27-28th July.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown. He stated that the inquiry was into the deaths of six Chinese, who appeared to have been resident at 36, Portland Street, Yaumati. Between one and two o'clock on the morning of 28th the house in question and a number of adjoining ones collapsed. In the course of the same day six corpses were taken out of the debris. The object of the inquiry was to ascertain whether the falling of the building was due to the culpable negligence of any person concerned in that building. No. 36, or properly 35, was the end house of a block of thirteen, and along the side wall ran a street called Pitt Street. These buildings were on a lot acquired from the Crown by the Humphreys Estate and Finance Co. in 1898, and in 1900 they proceeded to build. The plans in this case were prepared by the well-known firm of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, and they gave notice to the Director of Public Works on July 16th, 1900, to the effect that they were about to erect there 13 houses, and also 13 on a lot on the other side of the street. They submitted plans which came before Mr. Tooker, who made a note on the architects' notice to the effect that they did not comply with a certain section of the Ordinance. The notice was referred back, and permission was eventually granted. The next material fact was that on May 14th, 1902, five verandahs of this block of houses collapsed. On June 6th Mr. Haggard, of the P.W.D., recommended that the whole of the verandahs and front walls of the north block should be pulled down as there were some very serious cracks.

Dr. Macfarlane, medical officer in charge of the mortuary at Kowloon, deposed to inspecting the bodies of six Chinese reported to him to have come from 36, Portland Street. He found the cause of death to be multiple injuries and asphyxia.

Lum Shiu, shop coolie, spoke to being at 36, Portland Street on the night of the typhoon. He was awakened by the breaking open of the side door. Witness and several foks tried to mend the door. Just then several bricks fell from upstairs and the people above called out, "The house is going to fall." Witness and the foks ran into the street and escaped.

Chung Yung said he was in house No. 36 on the night of the typhoon, but escaped through a broken door before the collapse. Outside, he heard other houses falling.

Sanitary Inspector Charles Ward, in charge of the Disinfecting Station at Yaumati, said that while securing his own quarters during the typhoon of 28th July he heard three crashes. Witness went out at 4.15 in the morning, and saw that 36, 38 and 40 Portland Street had collapsed. The roofs of all the houses were completely gone. Witness then proceeded to the police station, but learning that the police were engaged elsewhere, returned and got 32 of his own coolies. These he took to 36 Portland Street, and started them to work. They heard cries coming from the ruins, and eventually succeeded in rescuing nine persons. Three corpses were also unearthed. The rescuers had to work by hand. There were no shovels available. Witness thought the end wall fell outwards, and the party wall between 36 and 38 fell into 36. When pulling down the end wall witness noticed that it was built like two nine-inch walls with a hollow in between.

Was there any cross-bonding between the two portions of the wall?—Here and there an odd brick.

Did the fallen brickwork fall in masses or not?—It fell loosely, and the bricks were perfectly clean.

Did you see anything like mortar?—'t was an apology for it; you couldn't call it mortar.

What did it look like?—Red earth.

In order to rescue people and to get out the bodies, did you have to use picks and crowbars to break up the debris?—No, we used a couple of shovels. We wouldn't dare use a pick.

Constable Conlan deposed to attending the Portland Street collapse shortly after 7.30 a.m. on the morning of the 28th. On that day and the next, assisted by a number of coolies, he turned over all the ruins in search of bodies, and rescued one boy on the first day. No part of the building was pulled down by witness's coolies during the search. He found it necessary to use a pick to remove matting and pieces of wood. The bricks were single, not in masses.

Mr. H. Haggard, assistant engineer in the Public Works Department, said the plans before the Court referring to the buildings in question, were passed in October 1900. The next memo recorded in the Department was the report of the falling of five verandahs to these houses. The plan of verandahs put in was passed by Mr. Ormsby, then Director of Public Works, on October 20th, 1900. On June 16th, 1902, witness inspected the houses at Yaumati and reported that the whole of the verandahs and front walls in the north block (the block including the houses which have collapsed) should be pulled down as there were some very serious cracks, and men were packing these up. The front walls had then fallen away from the party walls. When that report was made there was very poor bonding between the party walls and the front walls. Mr. Tooker examined the buildings. Subsequently the collapsed verandahs were rebuilt. When witness had made his report to Mr. Tooker the matter passed out of his hands for the time being. The next thing on record was the architects' application, dated 9th October, for inspection. This was passed to witness for report by Mr. Tooker. He inspected the buildings with Mr. Crisp on 22nd October and the report put in by the latter to the effect that the whole block was in a very unsound condition, was correct.

At this stage the inquiry was adjourned.

MERCHANT CHARGED WITH FALSE PRETENCES.

At the Magistracy on Sept. 22 Mr. Wood heard a charge preferred against H. S. Holmes of obtaining \$3,000 by false pretences from Cheung Tsam Leung. Mr. C. F. Dixon, prosecutor, and Mr. G. K. Holmes defended his brother.

Mr. Dixon explained that defendant was a merchant and the complainant desired to become his compradore and negotiations were entered into between them with a Chinese named Yeung as interpreter. Three or four interviews took place and at these it was represented to the complainant that Mr. Holmes had obtained contracts from the Canton Railway Company, and that he desired to start or continue an import or export business in respect of which he had obtained orders. The complainant was asked to become the compradore and to put up \$10,000—\$5,000 cash and \$5,000 in title deeds. Complainant could only find \$5,000 in cash but Yeung promised to find the title deeds. As a result of the negotiations complainant was taken to the office of Mr. d'Almeida where he signed a compradore's agreement without being told of the real compradore that defendant had already engaged, and without being told that defendant was carrying on business in another office under a different name. He was told that his office would be in the same building where Mr. d'Almeida had rooms. He was provided with a desk, and bought a set of books. Mr. Holmes came there occasionally and Yeung also visited the place at times, but no business was done. As a matter of fact his client only advanced \$3,000, and naturally wished to see some business before he paid the rest. During the three months from the end of May till the end of August no business was done, but complainant was paid his salary. A small business was done at the office in Duddell Street where another compradore was employed.

His Worship—You suggest the false pretences consisted in saying that he had contracts with the railway which he had not?

Mr. Dixon—Yes; and I shall submit that his action and words constituted false pretences.

In conclusion he asserted that the story of the business was a myth and that defendant planned to swindle his client.

Sit Leung Kit, trader, spoke to being security for the compradore employed by defendant but though he attended at the office he saw no goods imported. As there was no business done complainant said he wanted his money back. At 56 Queen's Road and at 4 Queen's Road defendant carried on business as a foreign trading company, and it was not until the middle of June that he learned that defendant was carrying on business at 33 Queen's Road as the Hing On Foreign Trading Company. Witness was suing the defendant in the Supreme Court for his \$5,000.

Cross-examined—In June he instructed his solicitor to write to defendant that he refused to act as security for the compradore any longer.

The case was remanded.

At the Magistracy on September 23rd before Mr. A. G. Wood the hearing of the charge against H. S. Holmes, merchant, of obtaining \$3,000 from Cheung Chim Leung by false pretences was resumed. Mr. C. F. Dixon appeared to prosecute and Mr. G. K. Holmes defended.

Complainant detailed the negotiations which took place between defendant and himself at which a Chinaman named Yeung was present and acted as interpreter. Defendant said he wanted a compradore for an import and export business and added that he wanted \$10,000 security—\$5,000 in cash and \$5,000 in title deeds. Witness said he could only put up \$5,000 in cash and Yeung offered to find the \$5,000 in title deeds. At one interview defendant said he had secured the contract for engaging labourers in connection with the Kowloon Railway, and subsequently witness and Yeung went to Mr. Holmes' office to inquire if defendant intended to proceed with the two businesses. On being answered in the affirmative he agreed to become the compradore because he anticipated that good results would come from the two businesses. At the fourth interview witness took \$3,000 with him as part payment of his security of \$5,000 as compradore. Defendant told him to go to Mr. d'Almeida's office and accompanied him there with two others. In that office an agreement was read over to him. This he signed and paid over \$3,000 to the solicitor who handed it to the defendant. Up to this time neither defendant nor Yeung said anything to him about carrying on any other business. When at Mr. d'Almeida's office he was told by defendant that an adjoining room would be occupied by him. There he was to conduct his business as compradore. Three days later he moved into this office where he attended daily for over a month when he went for eighteen days into the country. The name of the firm was the Hing On Trading Company. On returning he resumed his duty at the office and subsequently went to the country a second time for seven or eight days. When he returned to Hongkong he again took up his duties which he ceased about the middle of the present month. During the time he was there defendant came several times to the office but no business was done. Several people called to make inquiries. Yeung was occasionally there. Witness first found that defendant had another business a few weeks before he left the office.

Cross-examined—He was not a wealthy man and Yeung Chik Tsam and another were interested in the compradoresthip. He did not put up the remaining portion of his money because during the time he was there no goods came in and none went out. He received his salary for two months. It was his duty to look for business but he did not secure any contracts. He became compradore because the commission and the salary were good and because he expected good business. He made inquiries concerning the defendant from his friends and he was told defendant was pretty good. He regarded a second compradore as prejudicial to his interests. There would be less for witness than if there were only one.

Defendant was asked if he had received any contracts from the Kowloon Railway, and answered in the negative.

The hearing was adjourned.

COMPENSATION FOR TYPHOON DAMAGE.

The comprehensive report on the typhoon of 27th and 28th July last, laid before the Legislative Council, contains an interesting statement by the Hon. Registrar General as to relief granted to the sufferers. A meeting of the Tung Wah Hospital Committee was held a few days after the typhoon, at which a Relief Committee was formed. It was agreed that (i.) Big junks and fishing junks, which are financed on methods approximating to an insurance, and which contemplate loss by storm as a risk of the trade, should receive no compensation. This was the course followed after the typhoon of 1906. Charity should however be extended to necessitous survivors of such wrecks, especially to widows and orphan children (ii.) A sub-committee was appointed to inquire into cases referred to them by the Registrar General's Committee. (iii.) The Committee further recommended that a letter should be addressed to the Government to be forwarded to the proper quarter, expressing the thanks of the community for the action of the crew of H.M.S. *Astraea* in rescuing certain Chinese.

The recommendations of the sub-committee which were adopted, were as follows:—(a) \$6,645 to be paid to the owners or crew of 75 craft. (b) \$500 to be paid to the victims of the collapse of houses. (c) \$1,000 to be subscribed to the Blindenheim, Kowloon.

Claims raised in connection with 41 craft were disallowed. Besides these, 116 cases of loss or damage were reported; but the sufferers in these cases had failed to appear, although notices had been posted up five times calling on them to do so, and other steps taken to find them. The great majority of these cases were either bogus, or cases where the injury inflicted was trifling, or where in no case could compensation be awarded. The Committee now recommended that the enquiry be considered to be closed.

CHINESE APPRECIATION OF BLUEJACKETS' GALLANTRY.

The following is a translation of a letter addressed by the Tung Wah Hospital Committee and Representatives of the Chinese community to the Hon. Registrar General in acknowledgment of the services of the crew of H.M.S. *Astraea* in life saving during the typhoon:—
Sir,—During the typhoon of the 27th July the cutter lowered by H.M.S. *Astraea* was the cause of saving the lives of many persons from those junks which were late in making for shelter. We understand that an Officer and 12 sailors showed the greatest bravery in risking their own lives at a time when the sea was high in order to save the lives of others. This deed of heroism is greatly admired by all sections of the community of the Colony. In our letter No. 115 we stated a desire to make a small presentation to them as a token of our appreciation. We regret to learn from your letter No. 194 that the cruiser has already returned home thus preventing us giving effect to our desire.

The Officers and crew of H. M. S. *Astraea* have gained a wide reputation for their disinterested bravery. Being endowed with love for their fellowmen, they used their energy to save the lives of others, and, in picking up the drowning, gained honour for themselves. Although we cannot requite them with a presentation, this act of humanity will for ever exist in our memory. We shall consider it a great favour if you will be so kind as to convey for us our sense of gratitude.—We have &c."

An official statement is published of the present position of the Indo-China railways. The section of the Yun-nan line between Laokai and Meng-teze will probably be completed and opened for traffic during 1909, and the entire line as far as Yun-nan-sen in 1910. Work on the Hue-Kwang-tri line is being pushed rapidly forward, and the railway is expected to be opened by the end of the present year. As regards the line from Saigon by Khanhhoa to Lang-bian a portion is already open to traffic, that between kilometres 89 and 134. Last year was a bad one for Indo-China railways owing to various causes such as famine, &c.

THE SHANGHAI LIBEL ACTION.

THE PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

Before Mr. G. W. King, British police magistrate at Shanghai, on the 21st instant. H. D. O'Shea, proprietor and editor of the "China Gazette" was charged that he contriving and unlawfully wickedly and maliciously intending to injure, vilify and prejudice the said Lebbeus Redman Wilfley, Judge of the United States Court for China, and to deprive him of his good name, fame, credit and reputation, and to bring him into public contempt scandal infamy and disgrace, unlawfully wickedly and maliciously did write and publish and cause and procure to be written and published, a false scandalous malicious and defamatory libel in the issue of the said "China Gazette" newspaper of the said 4th day of August 1908, in the form of an editorial note or comment containing divers false, scandalous, malicious and defamatory matters, and things of and concerning the said Lebbeus Redman Wilfley in his capacity of Judge of the United States Court for China.

The Crown Advocate, Mr. H. P. Wilkinson, prosecuted, assisted by Mr. R. E. Gregson; defendant was represented by Messrs. F. E. Ellis and Godfrey.

The Crown Advocate said the words complained of were the following:—

"An exhibition of greater indecency, of more venomous mendacity, of meaner innuendo, a greater contempt for the truth and justice, and a wilder desire to simply revenge himself by besmirching the name of everyone who dared to criticize his methods, has surely never been presented in any country by a Judge than has been given in this case by this coarse, unscrupulous, ignorant and vulgar mountebank, whom the grim irony of corrupt American politics has entrusted with the discharge of judicial functions—functions that he is intellectually, mentally and morally unfitted for and incapable of exercising. The miserable tactics of Mr. Wilfley, while before the Committee, remind us only of the tactics of the squid, the creature which when pursued hopes to escape by darkening and poisoning the waters all round it by the discharge of the noxious fluid concealed in its glands. When Mr. Wilfley made the above statements"—and here is the innuendo complained of about this paper and its Editor—"he not only was lying, but we say it deliberately, he knew at the time he was lying, his only object being to mislead the members of the House Committee as to the standing and record of his critics in Shanghai. It was surely a poor rôle for a judge to plead in order to excuse his own protection of notorious swindlers, that the British Court and British Law in China are parties to like swindles under the Hongkong Ordinances, as Mr. Wilfley falsely and audaciously pleaded."

The Crown Advocate continued:—It is now my duty, and I am entitled, to refer you to the issue of the paper itself. You will find certain questions put down in that paper as having been asked in a certain form by the Hon. Judge Wilfley, in which Mr. H. D. O'Shea, Editor of the "China Gazette" is referred to, and his character and social position and political ideas are dealt with, so that the innuendo is put in here in order to lay before the Court the meaning of the questions referred to by Mr. O'Shea. The writer of this article, whoever he is, insinuates that in asking these questions the Judge was revenging himself on those who criticized him. These are the words complained of. The proceedings are brought under section 4 of the Libel Act of 1843 (which Counsel quoted, enacting that maliciously publishing a defamatory libel rendered a person liable to imprisonment in a common house of correction for a period not exceeding two years.) This section does not make any new offence. It is a Common Law offence (Counsel then quoted the Newspaper Libel and Registration Act of 1881, sec. 4 which defines the defence that may be offered). That section of the Act was passed after the case of *Rex v. Gordon*, in which it was decided that evidence of the truth of the libel could not be received by a police magistrate, and a *certiorari* would not be issued to him in that case to hear evidence of the truth of the libel. Even this section now says "the Court may receive evidence as to the publication being for the public benefit". If such evidence

is offered it is a matter for the discretion of the Magistrate to decide whether it would not be his duty to commit anyhow.

His Worship—The charge is "knowing it to be false." I must hear evidence on that point if it is offered.

The Crown Advocate—To libel a man in his profession is a very serious matter indeed.

Mr. Ellis—I don't want to take up the time of the Court, but I should like to know what my friend is trying to make out to your Worship. It seems to me that, so far as he is concerned, the proceeding should be simple and very brief. All he has to do is to offer evidence of publication, and that it is libellous.

The Crown Advocate—That is what I am taking now.

Mr. Ellis—That should be a matter of two minutes (Laughter).

The Crown Advocate—You admit the libel? I will say nothing more.

His Worship—It is a question for me to decide whether it is libellous or not. Ought you not to call evidence as to who is editor of the "China Gazette"?

The Crown Advocate—On the exhibit put in on the evidence of Mr. Cobbe, and in the newspaper itself, on page 2, it states "Henry O'Shea, Editor, No. 1 Balfour Road." I think that is a point that would now be for the defence, if they wished to raise it. That is in the publication of the paper delivered to Mr. Cobbe.

His Worship—Upon that evidence I shall frame a charge. I am satisfied that this paper has been brought home to Mr. O'Shea.

His Worship framed the charge as follows:—
"For that you Henry David O'Shea, proprietor and editor of the "China Gazette," on the 4th of August 1908 at Shanghai in the Empire of China, unlawfully did write and publish a certain false, scandalous and defamatory libel of and concerning Lebbeus Redman Wilfley, Judge of the U. S. Court for China, knowing the said libel to be false, contrary to the Statute 6 and 7 Vic. c. 96, sec. 4."

His Worship then gave accused the statutory caution, and asked him if he had anything to say.

Mr. O'Shea—I plead not guilty; I reserve my defence.

His Worship—Do you desire to call any witnesses?

Mr. O'Shea—No, your Honour.

Mr. Ellis—I should like to add that in addition to the plea of not guilty by the defendant there will be a further plea of justification at the proper time.

His Worship—I would rather get that from the defendant.

Mr. Ellis—It is not necessary to get it from him. At the proper time a further plea will be filed that the words complained of are true and published for the public benefit.

His Worship—Henry David O'Shea, I commit you to take your trial before the Supreme Court.

Defendant asked to be tried by a full jury.

His Worship—There is now the question of bail.

The Crown Advocate—As Mr. O'Shea conducts a newspaper here, and has settled here, the Crown is prepared to accept bail in a reasonable amount, but it should be a substantial sum.

Mr. Ellis—I don't think it should be a substantial sum. The principle of bail is the consideration of the appearance of defendant at his trial. Is it likely that defendant is going away?

The Crown Advocate—I don't know. I presume not. I think Mr. O'Shea should bind himself in £100, with one British surety of £100.

Mr. Ellis—We are prepared to find that bail.

His Worship—Very well, himself in \$1,000, and one surety approved by the Court in the same amount. Have you your surety here?

Mr. Ellis—We brought two sureties to Court. Mr. Thurstone is one of them. Mr. William Dowdall is the other. Mr. Dowdall, I understand, is here.

His Worship informed defendant that he was entitled to a copy of the depositions, and the Court then rose.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan received the Maharajah of Sikkim, and Lieut-General Sir Reginald Pole-Carew on the 18th inst.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th September.—The prices are declining market being dull.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$4.60	to	\$4.65
" Round, Good quality ...	4.95	to	5.00
" Long	5.00	to	5.05
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	4.65	to	4.70
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	4.60	to	4.70
" White,	4.75	to	4.85
" Fine Cargo	5.40	to	5.45

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, September 25th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1150/1160	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1170/1180	do.
Malwa Older	\$1190/1200	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1210/1220	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$850	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$925	do.
Patna New	\$1190	per chest.
Patna Old	—	do.
Benares New	\$1135	do.
Benares Old	\$1135	do.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

Fortnightly Circular dated Yokohama, 15th Sept. 1908, states:—

Market Information.—Cotton Yarns.—There is a very slight recovery in fine counts; business, however, is very quiet and values are nominally unchanged. Cotton Piece Goods.—Deliveries of "Grey" cloths have continued on a fair scale, and "Black" and "Coloured" fabrics have commenced to move. Buyers of the latter, however, have adopted a "hand-to-mouth" policy. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—The market generally has improved and country buyers are reported to be busy in Tokyo. Army Cloths are moving away freely, also Meltons, but the bankrupt stocks which have been placed on the market keep prices unduly depressed. Textiles Generally.—The consumptive demand is "reported" good, but Tokyo merchants aver they are losing heavily on all clearances. When Manchester prices are steady, buyers will doubtless again appear. It is the weakness of Manchester that adversely affects this market at the present moment. Row Cotton.—Spinners still refrain from placing orders to any large extent. The rise in home values has further contributed to impede business. Rice.—The Saigon market has seen a considerable advance, but local quotations are unchanged, no business being transacted. Metals.—No change to report. Window Glass.—The situation remains the same. Kerosine.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of September show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 9,400 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals nil, deliveries 6,000 units. Sugar.—The market is still dull. Flour.—Prices remain firm, but there is very little doing in the way of new business. Several large shipments are reported of "Gold Drop," presumably on consignment to try and keep the brand on the market; otherwise, prices still remain the same as last reported, but these must go higher on fresh importations as quotations have gone up 10 cents gold per barrel on all grades owing to increase in freights. Wheat.—There have been no importations for some considerable time, and the present stock of old Wheat is small, which is all held by the mills who refrain from giving any fresh orders for the time being owing to the high prices asked in America.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 18th September, 1908, states:—The Mid-Autumn settling day passed off with very little trouble, but the merchants have not yet begun seriously to think of future business. So far the business of the week, has been confined to the Newchwang and Tientsin dealers, who have bought a fair quantity of goods chiefly from second hands, of American makes at Tls. 4.25 to Tls. 4.30 for Three Rabbit and Horse and Dog Sheetings, and we hear a nice line of Flying Horse to Tls. 4.30. The Tientsin dealers have paid most attention to the lower qualities, and have bought the Round Woman and Emperor Horse chops at Tls. 4.16. In American Drills a fair business has also been done, and sales of P.M.C., Flying Horse, Cat and Head and Fox Head B.B. Drills, have been made

to Newchwang at Tls. 4.87, Tls. 4.75, Tls. 4.55 to Tls. 4.60 and Tls. 4.55 respectively. Beyond the above we have not heard of much business, but while there is the usual quiet sales being made, there is little doubt that there is a much more general enquiry than there has been for many months past. The prices, however, at which the native is willing to buy, is so much below the rates asked by importers, that the results are small. In Fancies a few sales have been made from stock, and some indents of special chops and makes have been entered into for shipment during the latter part of this year. The Home markets are firmer, and recent telegrams from Manchester make prices much stronger, in fact rates of two weeks ago, would not be entertained. The export for the fortnight ending 11th instant, was eleven million yards. The New York market is also stronger, and offers to buy for this market have met with little success. The price of cotton is distinctly firmer, the latest quotations for Oct. December and January shipment being respectively 8.80 cents, 8.88 cents and 8.80 cents. The Indian Yarn market has continued quite brisk during the week, and sales of 5685 bales have been made at advances of about one tael and a half per bale. The chief buyers have been from the Newchwang and Szechuen markets, which have paid most attention to No. 10s, and would still go on buying. Clearances, all round, while not being very large do not decrease, and in the present state of things may be considered satisfactory. In Japan and local spinners a fair business has been done, and clearances of the latter have been very good. At the Yuen Fong auction in 10th inst., prices inclined to be easier, heavy Grey goods being particularly, so but Jeans and T-Cloths in some instances showed advances. Turkey Reds, with the exception of two chops of 4 1/2 lbs. and 8 lbs. are all lower, but prices for the full quantity of Black Cotton Italians were maintained. At today's auction prices again tended towards weakness. Prices for Woollens have not advanced, and are much the same as they were a week ago.

EXPORTS.—

SILK REPORT.

Raw Silk.—During the current month prices for full-sized silks have been firm and very steady. Japanese exporters promptly checking any sign of a decline. On the other hand, fine sizes for Europe are somewhat lower, there being almost no demand from this quarter. The autumn cocoon crop, which is now practically finished, has been rather disappointing, and it is estimated that the season's crop available for export will be about the same as last year, viz., 100/105,000 bales.

Waste Silk.—A few purchases have been made by exporters since last Report at prices showing some decline. As important orders are coming in from consuming centres, the market is weaker.

HABUTAI.

Kanazawa.—There is no change of importance to report since the first of the month, prices showing only a trifling decline. There has been considerable business in 23 inch goods, especially in the raw, for Europe, and American buyers have been particularly interested in 27 inch. Echizen.—The only item of interest to be noticed in this market has been the anticipated decline in prices for 6 mme., quotations for which are falling more into line in proportion to the other weights. There has not been much demand from abroad, and moreover, that for heavy goods has shown a distinct falling off. **Kawamata.**—Prices have shown a considerable decline in all widths consequent upon the absence of any important enquiry.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 28th September.—There is no change in the tone of the market. Quotations are \$86.00 to \$87.00.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS

Per P. & O. str. *Malla*, sailed on 19th Sept. For Antwerp:—250 bales hemp. For Manchester:—433 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—1,350 bales hemp. For Gibraltar:—1 case silk piece goods, 2 cases glassware. For Barcelona:—5 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—200 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—50 bales waste silk, 100 bales raw silk. For London:—2,088 bales hemp, 2,099 packages tea, 1,507 cases preserves, 150 bales waste silk, 400 bales pierced cocoons:—170 bales raw silk, 658 rolls rattling, 51 cases bird's feathers, 20 bales bulbs, 32 cases Chinaware, 20 cases gum elemi, 10 packages cigars &c., 5 cases silks and 100 chests preserves.

HONGKOW, Sept. 10th.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. —
Do. seconds	" —
Buffalo hides, best selected	" —
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	10.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	8.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.40
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	10.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" —
Animal Tallow	12.80
Gallnuts, usual shape	16.00
Gallnuts, plum do.	18.25
Tobacco, Tinchow	" —
Tobacco, Woukoug	" —
Black Bristles, Riflings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	5.75
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	" —

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 25th September, 1908.—Our report of last week, owing to an unfortunate printer's error, appeared somewhat distorted for which we apologise to our readers. What we then wrote is equally applicable to the present situation, in so far as the actual volume of business transacted is only restricted by the reluctance of holders to meet the ideas of intending purchasers, the demand for most investment securities continuing as active as before. The feature of the past week has been the phenomenal advance in Unions for which a strong demand at the close gives promise of even higher rates in the no distant future. Barsilver has eased off during the interval, and is now quoted at 23 1/2 d., with T.T. on London at 19 1/2 d. The rate on Shanghai is still quoted at 7 1/4 T.T.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled steady with sales at \$768 and \$770 closing with probable buyers at the higher rate. London is unchanged at £80. There is no change to report in Nationals which continue without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been in strong demand throughout the interval, and with few shares available the rate has rapidly risen until \$795 is offered, with a probability of \$800 being paid. A sale at \$790 is reported, but there is no doubt that at the close this could be improved upon. Other stocks under this head are unchanged, but Yangtses can be placed at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas are wanted at the improved rate of \$94, and Hongkongs under offer would realize \$326. Sales of the latter are reported at \$320, but at this the market closes strong with no shares available.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$28 1/2 and \$29 closing with buyers at the former rate. Other stocks in this section are unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are easier with sellers at \$125. Luzons are as last quoted and without business.

MINING.—Quotations are unchanged and there is no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are somewhat easier with sellers at \$95. Sales are reported of Kowloon Wharves at \$49, and of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves at Tls. 160. Shanghai Docks are firmer in the north with sales at Tls. 86.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—West Points have been booked at \$46 and Humphreys Estates at the reduced rate of \$9. Hongkong Lands are unchanged with probable sellers at \$9 1/2, and Kowloon Lands at \$27. Shanghai Lands have declined to Tls. 117.

COTTON MILLS.—No business is reported in this section. In the North Ewos have advanced to Tls. 64, but Internationals are easier at Tls. 60. Hongkongs are unchanged and without business at \$11.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bell's Asbestos have advanced to \$8 with buyers, and Electrics to \$19 also with buyers, considerable sales of Cements have been booked at \$10 at which rate further supplies are obtainable. Sales are also reported of China Providents at \$9½ and of Dairy Farms at \$20, both closing with buyers. We have now added to our list the Robinson Piano Co., Ltd. for which a demand exists locally at \$59 ex the dividend of \$3 per share for the half-year ended 30th September, 1907, paid to-day.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$770
National B. of China	£6	London £60
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	\$6½, sellers
China Provident	{ \$1 }	\$9½, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$11
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 85
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 242½
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$20, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$49, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$95, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 86
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 160, sales
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$185, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$19
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$77
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$231
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$215, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$94, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$86½
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, buyers
North China	£5	Tls. 82, buyers
Union	\$100	\$795, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$94
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 114
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Res. 250	\$580, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$7½, sellers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 }	\$14
Philippine Co.	{ \$1 }	\$2
	\$10	\$8, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$15, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$22
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34½, x.d., sellers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$28½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	£5	\$35
Shell Transport Co.	£1	45/- buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24½
Do. New	\$5	\$15, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5½
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$3, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½
Wiemann Ltd.	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Do. Founders	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

17th September, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$790, buyers
National of China	£6	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	{ R187½ }	Tls. 175, sellers
	{ T125 }	
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$790, sellers
North-China	£5	Tls. 80, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$50	\$167½, sellers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
Shipping—		
Indo-China { pref. }	£10	Tls. 28½, buyers
Shell Trans. { def. }	£1	Tls. 13½, buyers
& Trading { ord. }	£10	\$22.50, sellers
S'hai Tug & { pref. }	T50	\$29.10, sellers
Lighter { ord. }	T50	Tls. 47, sellers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 51, buyers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$105, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 157, sellers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, sellers
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 90, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 }	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	{ 18/10 }	Tls. 16, buyers
	{ £1 }	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 114, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$99, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Weih iwei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100, sellers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 62½, buyers
International	T75	Tls. 62, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 242½, sellers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 117, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 51½, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 40, sellers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 52½, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$11, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 620, sellers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 90, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	£20	Tls. 395, ex div.
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
Tile Works	50	\$30, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 56½, buyers
Eastern Fibre	10	nominal
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	\$9.00, sellers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$20½, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$43, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$11½, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$22, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$17, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, buyers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford &	100	\$150, sellers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 42½, sellers
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 59, sellers
China Im. & Ex.	T100	Tls. 85, sellers
Lumber		
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending September 17th, states:—A good business has been done during the week. A nominal rise has to be recorded in Langkats, the market closing with buyers at Tls. 620 cash and Tls. 645 for December. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A few shares are on offer at \$790 with ex 73. Marine and Fire Insurance.—A transaction is reported in Yangtze Insurance Co. shares at \$167½, and in China Fires at \$93 and \$94. Shipping.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Sugars.—Peraks. A few shares have changed hands at Tls. 90. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. In the beginning of the week business was done at Tls. 165 for September, and later at Tls. 163½ and Tls. 162½ for Sept. and Tls. 163½ for December. The market closed easier with sellers at Tls. 163 for September, but cash sales were exceedingly difficult, a transaction being reported at Tls. 157. Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. No business in this stock. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. shares have been sold at Tls. 116. Industrial.—Cottons. Internationals have changed hands at Tls. 62. Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. Business has been done at Tls. 62½ cash and Tls. 65 for December. Kalumpang Rubbers have buyers at Tls. 56½. Shanghai Sumatras. Business is reported at Tls. 93 for September and later at Tls. 95 for cash. Maatschappij &c. in Langkats. On the 14th business was recorded at Tls. 585 for September, and on the 15th at Tls. 620, Tls. 625 and Tls. 630 ex. div. Dec. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz have been dealt in at \$20½. All other stocks under this heading are as quoted below. Loans and Debentures.—Astor House 7 per cent, debentures stand at Tls. 103.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, September 28th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	321½
Credits 4 months' sight	226
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	180
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank, on demand	132½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132½
Bank on demand	132½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	86½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	86½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	75½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	105½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	11½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	11 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	86½
OVERSEAS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.20
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.70
SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent discount
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$5.75
"	10 " "	6.90
Hongkong	20 " "	5.10
"	10 " "	5.25

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 10th Sept.—Per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload, Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

September—

ARRIVALS.

17, Amara, British str., from Swatow.
 18, China, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 18, Empire, British str., from Manila.
 18, Gilbert, French str., from K. C. Wan.
 18, Heliopolis, British str., from Chinwantao.
 18, Jason, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Malta, British str., from Shanghai.
 18, Quessant, French str., from Saigon.
 18, Pingsuey, British str., from Singapore.
 18, Singan, British str., from Haiphong.
 18, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 18, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 18, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 19, Aloinous, British str., from Singapore.
 19, Inverio, British str., from Manila.
 19, Japan, British str., from Kobe.
 19, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Tientsin, British str., from Ningpo.
 20, Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
 20, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 20, Harbart, British str., from Moji.
 20, Manchuria, Am. str., from San Francisco.
 20, Marie, German str., from Salina Cruz.
 20, Shaoshing, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Sierra Blanca, British str., from Iloilo.
 20, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 21, Arabia, German str., from Portland.
 21, Germania, German str., from Sydney.
 21, Hallamshire, British str., from Moji.
 21, Idomeneus, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Indramayo, British str., from Keelung.
 21, Kueichow, British str., from Tientsin.
 21, Kwangse, British str., from Ch. foo.
 21, Quanta, German str., from Samarang.
 21, Vorwaerts, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
 21, Waishing, British str., from Wakamatsu.
 21, Yotorofu Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 22, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Cheongshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 22, Chowta, German str., from Bangkok.
 22, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 23, Banlawers, British str., from Japan.
 23, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 23, Dakotah, British str., from San Francisco.
 23, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, Liberia, German str., from Manila.
 23, Loonggang, British str., from Manila.
 23, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 23, Yatsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 24, Helene, German str., from Swatow.
 24, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
 24, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 24, Oriel, British str., from Moji.
 24, Sumatra, British str., from London.
 24, Yoochow, British str., from Amoy.
 24, Zieten, German str., from Hamburg.

September—

DEPARTURES.

18, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 18, Anchenblae, British str., for Labuan.
 18, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 18, Claverburn, British str., for Newcastle.
 18, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 18, Silesia, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Tranquebar, Danish str., for Shanghai.
 18, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 18, Yuansang, British str., for Manila.
 19, Aldenham, Br. str., for Australian Ports.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 19, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 19, Hitaohi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 19, Jason, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 19, Malta, British str., for Europe, &c.
 19, Quessant, French str., for Shanghai.
 19, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Prinz Waldemar, German str., for Kobe.
 19, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 19, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
 19, Victoria, Swedish str., for Manila.
 20, Aloinous, British str., for Nagasaki.
 20, Empire, British str., for Moji.
 20, Gilbert, French str., for K. C. Wan.
 20, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, Haldia, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.
 20, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Inverlyde, British str., for Amoy.
 20, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 20, Pitsanlok, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Wongkoi, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Yingehow, British str., for Ningpo.

22, Abana, British str., for Saigon.
 22, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Amara, British str., for Saigon.
 23, Chipshing, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 23, Idomeneus, British str., for Singapore.
 23, Indramayo, British str., for Singapore.
 23, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 23, Singan, British str., for Haiphong.
 23, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 23, Yotorofu Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 24, Ambria, German str., for Singapore.
 24, Anhui, British str., for Cebu.
 24, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, G. Apcar, British str., for Yokohama.
 24, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Kwangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 24, Michael Jensen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 24, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., for Europe.
 24, Rajah, German str., for Bangkok.
 24, Tientsin, British str., for Amoy.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Tean, from Manila, Consul Gen. Wilder.
 Per Tjibodas, from Moji, Mrs Grinble and 2 daughters.
 Per Shaoshing, from Shanghai, Mrs R. D. Watt and family.
 Per Loongsang, from Manila, &c., Messrs. Yourex and Austin.
 Per Japan, from Kobe, Mrs Crispin, Messrs. Campbell and Robin.
 Per Haimun, from Swatow, Mr. L. I. Thomas and Mr. Whitfield.
 Per Catherine Apcar, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Ruchwalay, Mrs. M. Seeley Husted and Mr. A. P. Storrie.
 Per Cheongshing, from Tientsin, Mrs. Staffman, Miss Long & Master Lewis, Captain Gott, and Mr. Ellieson.
 Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Viny, Messrs. Cruikshank, Walker, Ronessin, Garrell, Edlin, Alinella, V. de Castill, General Chung and Staff 10.
 Per Haiching, from Coast Ports, Mrs Greaves and 2 children, Judge Vincent, Sir Henry Berkeley, Messrs. Van Der Stadt, E. H. Barrett, Jones and C. B. Johnson.
 Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Fielder and Mr Kalos; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Verard, Mr and Misses da Silva (2), Messrs. E. C. Copleston, d'Harcourt, Duncan and Hebert.
 Per Zieten, for Hongkong, from Southampton, Messrs. A. M. Johnstone, Cooper and L. B. Commansen; from Hamburg, Mr G. Asvom; from Genoa, Messrs. A. Romsch, Mill and A. Lapael; from Singapore, Mrs V. D. Pradt, Mrs W. A. Dowley, Misses A. M. Young, F. M. and A. Melherlich, Messrs. Coke, Jones, Ishi Bashi and T. S. S. Lewammi.
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